

So You Say You Want A Revolution!

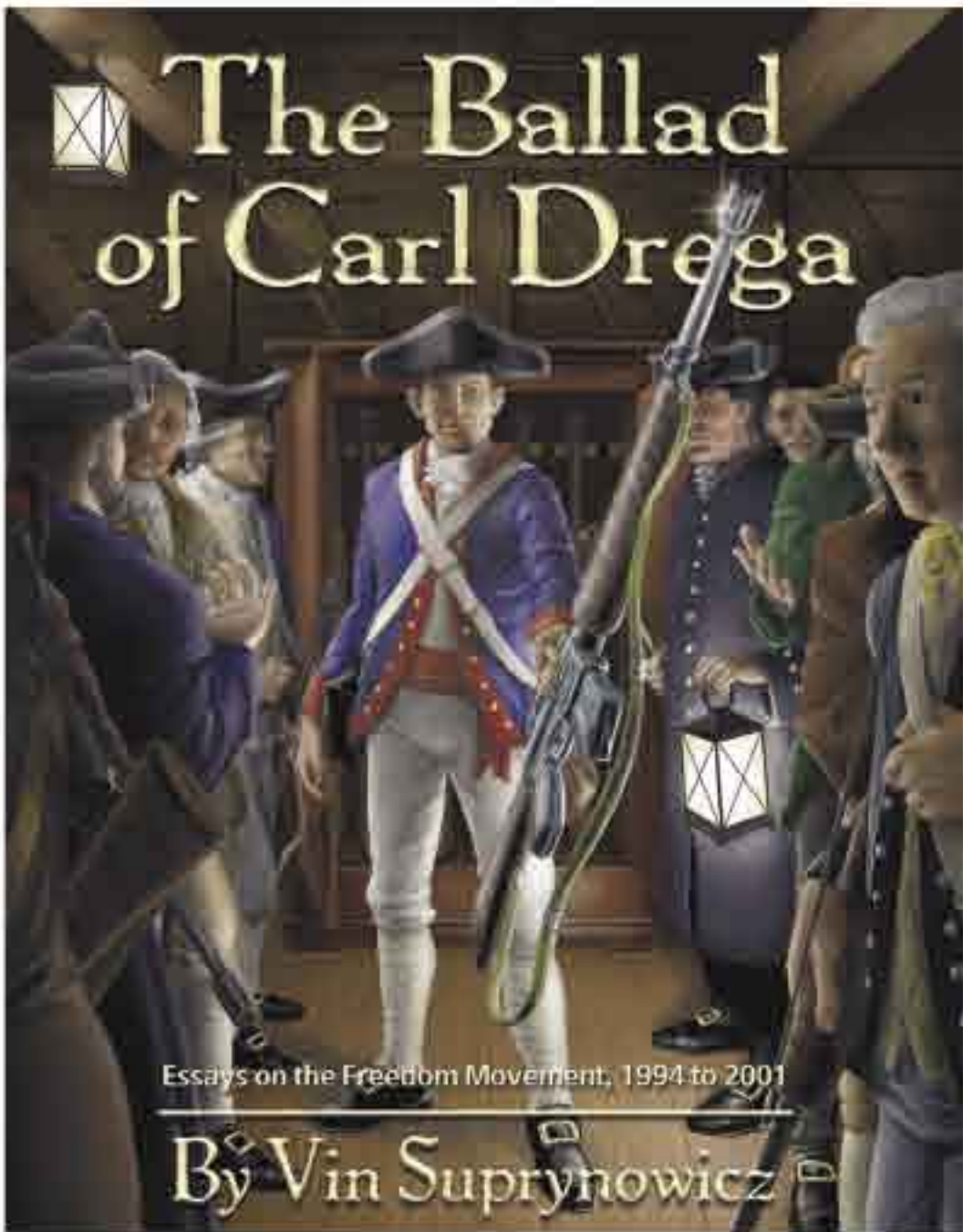
Credit, Deflation and the Federal Reserve

By Robert R. Prechter, Jr.

The value of credit that has been extended worldwide is unprecedented. United States entities of all types owe a total of \$30 trillion. That figure is three times the annual Gross Domestic Product, the highest ratio ever.

No tree grows to the sky. If borrowers begin paying back enough of their debt relative to the amount of new loans issued, or if borrowers default on enough of their loans, or if the economy cannot support the aggregate cost of interest payments and the promise to return principal, or if enough banks and investors become sufficiently reluctant to lend, credit creation will go into reverse. Total credit will contract, so bank deposits will contract, so the supply of money will contract, all with the same degree of leverage with which they were initially expanded. The result will be a deflationary crash. Japan's deflation and its march into depression began in 1990. The U.S. and the rest of the nations that have so far escaped appear

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What Should Freedom Lovers Do?

By Lew Rockwell, Jr.

How can one combine professional life with the advancement of liberty? Of course it is presumptuous to offer a definitive answer since all jobs and careers in the market economy are subject to the forces of the division of labor. Because a person focuses on one task doesn't mean that he or she isn't great at many tasks; it means only that the highest productive gains for everyone come from dividing tasks up among many people of a wide range of talents.

So it is with the freedom movement. The more of us there are, the more we do well to specialize, to cooperate through exchange, to boost our impact by dividing the labor. There is no way to know in advance what is right for any person in particular. There are so many wonderful paths from which to choose (and which I will discuss below). But this much we can know. The usual answer—go into government—is wrongheaded. Too many good minds have been corrupted and lost by following this fateful

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The Lesser of Evils

By Butler Shaffer

Listening to statist babblers struggling to justify the American assault on Iraq, I have been reminded of arguments I have had, over the years, with those who remain convinced that written constitutions are capable of protecting individual liberty. I have long taken the position that no constitution – no matter how solemn the procedures by which it was enacted, or how much it has been revered – can guarantee our liberties. It is impossible to create an institution of state power – which, by definition, enjoys a monopoly on the use of force – and then limit the exercise of that power in any meaningful way. Liberty depends upon a state of mind that continually questions; that maintains “eternal vigilance;” and efforts to institutionalize it – such as drafting “bills of rights” – necessarily involve a relaxation of that constant state of awareness.

The worthlessness of words on paper as guarantors of liberty should be evident to anyone observing the legally unimpeded strutting of the nation's

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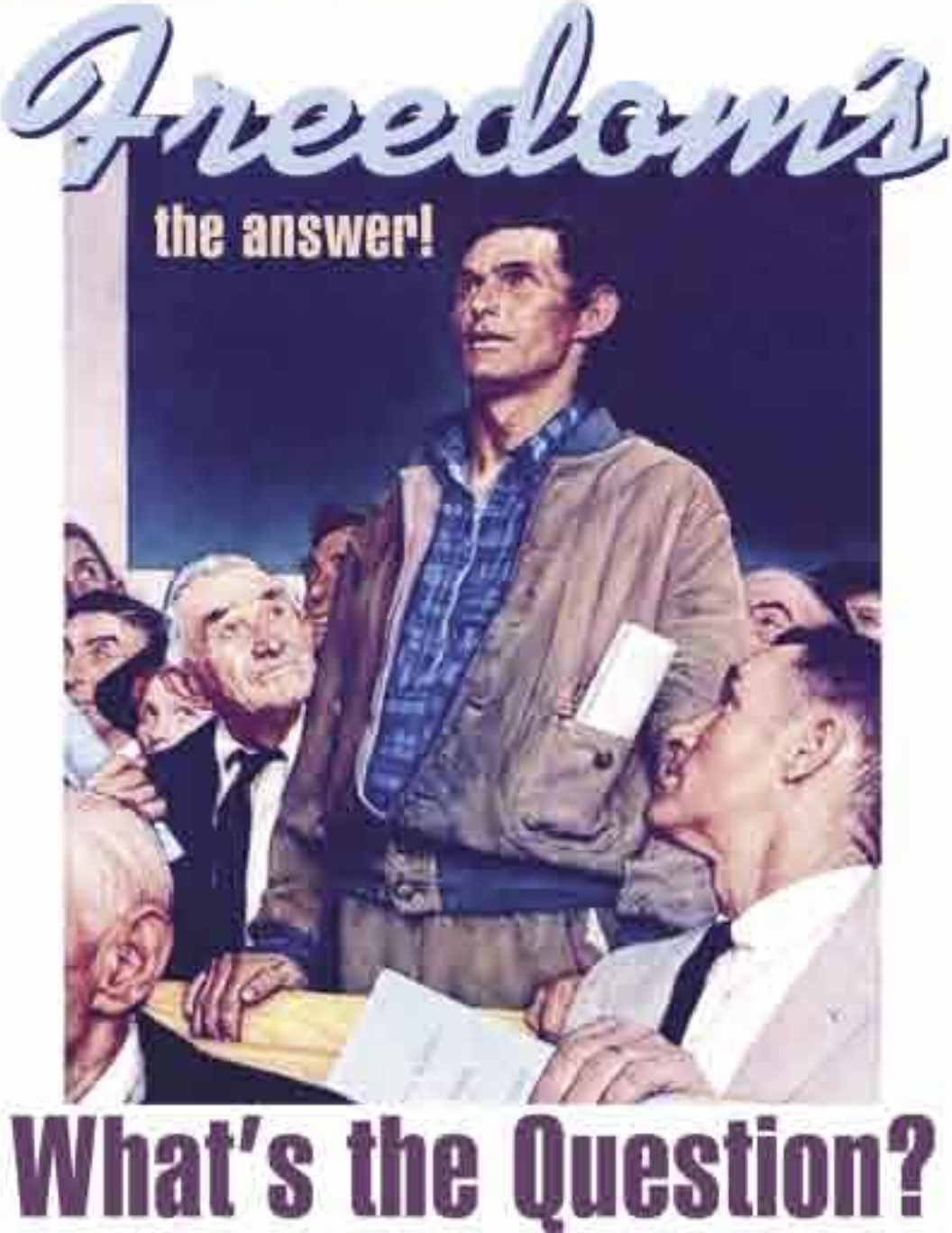
Interpol's Secret Army

By Chiu Hse Yu, Ph.D. and Jason Putman

Interpol has a reputation for working above the law. Part vigilante squad, part global police force, the secretive organization's elite assassination team, Archangel, broke dozens of international laws in some of Interpol's most dangerous work, suffering casualties that the agency has not yet publicly acknowledged. Last year, ex-Interpol agent David Race Bannon published his memoir, Race Against Evil: The Secret Missions of the Interpol Agent Who Tracked the World's Most Sinister Criminals (New Horizon Press, \$26.95), revealing the dark history of Archangel. For the first time, the vigilante tradition of Interpol as come to light.

From the organization's world headquarters in France, Interpol President Jolly Bugarin (1980-84) used a 13-year member of his police force as an assassin, saying: “In the fight against crime, we also use criminals.[i]” In 1985, the Interpol's secretary general – Raymond

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If you're not a little bit uncomfortable with your position, it isn't radical enough. How can you be too principled? Take the most extreme position you can. You're claiming territory you won't have to fight for later, mostly against your “allies.”

L. Neil Smith



Voting never brought freedom to anyone

by Ernest Hancock

There is concern in the halls of government and the media that the ongoing decline in voter participation reflects apathy. More likely, I think, voters are figuring out how the system really works.

All people act in ways they perceive to be in their best interest. Politics is about trying to convince voters it is in their best interest to vote for candidates who claim to represent their ideals.

Is it working? For the voters best interests?

Libertarian philosophy operates on the belief that most of the American people know that freedom is good for them – including freedom from social and economic engineering imposed on them by swarms of government agents sent to harass them and to eat out their substance.

Since merely voting for more freedom and less government has never produced anything of the sort, it is small wonder that this method is losing credibility and being abandoned by a liberty-starved populace.

I remember that it was the promise of less government that sent Ronald Reagan to the White House with the overwhelming support of the people. The promise of fundamental reforms sent people into the streets in 1992. In 1994 the promise of a contract with the American people, that a new congress would reduce government finally gave both houses to the Republicans.

In every case the American people were lied to, and the voters know it.

What could astute potential voters be told now that would convince them they can make any real difference at the ballot box?

Even putting aside some major concerns: that vote-counting computers are not isolated from outside communication and possible control; that even court-ordered recounts of a computer-tabulated election are not verified with a manual count; that tens of thousands of unvoted ballots are mailed out and never accounted for; that the justification for automation is speed – yet we still wait days and weeks for final results;

that legislation prevents simple verification of the computer program with a manual comparison after the election; that many potential voter's views are not represented on a ballot tailored to provide special advantages to parties that have been institutionalized as part of the government (crippling competition before it gets established); ... even with all that aside, we have a populace that instinctively knows that they are irrelevant to the process.

As an advocate of freedom, I have found that the political process allows an effective method of spreading the freedom message. For the few short months that people may be paying attention, libertarians have a chance to help them understand new questions that should be asked.

Rather than, "Would local control of public education be preferable?" Ask, "Do you support separation of Child and State?"

Rather than, "Which form of income tax is better?" Ask, "Do you believe the government has a right to your

income?"

Instead of, "Should we increase defense funding?" Ask, "Do you believe we would reduce threats to the United States by no longer trying to socially or economically control people around the world?"

Rather than, "How do we provide healthcare for children of the poor?" Ask, "How much less would healthcare cost if the industry were deregulated?"

Instead of, "How do you propose to get handguns out of the hands of criminals?" Ask, "How do you plan to eliminate victim disarmament laws so people can protect themselves?"

The issues are influenced by the questions asked – and by exactly how the questions are worded – by the media, the pollsters and the politicians.

This influence is now, however, being steadily displaced as individuals use the internet to ask their own questions, and seek answers from people who have first-hand knowledge.

Influence of government and traditional media has been dwindling to the point where Libertarians will soon be begged to participate in National Presidential Debates – so someone will watch them!

But by then, the freedom movement will have already taken to the streets with growing numbers of individuals demanding to be left alone, regardless of any vote totals – whether accurate or not.

The preceding words originally appeared as a guest column during my 2000 race for US Congress. Do you think the people thought I was being truthful?

My 15 year conversation with the people of Arizona has evolved to include a weekly column in a local newspaper and a radio show that has produced an archive of over 300 shows and counting. These are live interactive conversations with listeners that are often hearing about libertarianism for the first time. I am eager to share the no-compromise hard core message of freedom with them while be-

ing respectful when answering all of their questions. The support of this communication with the people of Arizona, and even around the world, could not have been possible without the help of many of the people associated with the production of this newspaper. Their support would evaporate the moment I no longer advocated the pure libertarian message. They are confident that I and my family believe what we advocate and have been very supportive. I think it was best described by one of my supporters on the radio show when a collectivist guest on the show described me as the

leader of my supportive audience, my fellow libertarian made it clear that I was nothing more than the mouth,... I couldn't have stated it more clearly.

The purpose of this newspaper is to highlight the depth and breadth of the libertarian movement. The Libertarian Party is only one part of a much larger movement in the free-market of ideas. The positions and ideas represented in this newspaper are shared with you by some of the greatest minds in the freedom movement. But they are but a very small representation of so many people and organizations that I respect and find effective in the battle for freedom. While I do not claim any mutual endorsement, I do think the information available in this tabloid by these contributors is a very good example of what many in the freedom movement are advocating. I hope you find as much inspiration as I do from these great minds.

The Libertarian Party has been very effective as a stepping stone to other associations more suited for each individual and as a touchstone for visiting with old friends and making new ones. Politically its effectiveness has been rated according to whom is asked for an evaluation. My opinion is that when the most principled position is advocated we all win. Vote totals, judicial victories, political appointments, libertarian friendly media and politicians are a side effect of a population beginning to understand that "Freedom's the Answer... What's the Question?"

Those individuals and voluntary associations of individuals that are the most consistent in representing the principles of freedom will enjoy the support of new friends and allies that share their goals. Those taking another path will miss out on the greatest awakening in human history. "In the end,... Freedom Always Wins". The greater the effort to alter the definition of what it is to be libertarian, the greater the decline into irrelevancy for any individual or group of individuals. While some may fear "Purist" would limit the growth of the Libertarian Party, we know that a no-compromise advocacy of freedom is the most appealing trait any organization can have. And I am of the opinion that the most effective libertarian activists of the past few decades have been disillu-

sioned by a Libertarian Party that has focused more on its own needs than the promotion of the individual rights of its members and the rights of those individuals they wish to attract. The idea that the Libertarian Party must resemble the collectivist structures that we are in constant battle with in order to grow is a demonstration of a collectivist mindset that has been allowed to grow far too long in an organization that should have never gotten on this path. "...and accordingly all experience hath shewn, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable..." but sooner or later there is a renewed injection of the libertarian infection into the marrow of political activism. I hope the Libertarian Party will be part of the libertarian renaissance that is certain to come. There are a lot of us ready to help.

“It is moral weakness, rather than villainy, that accounts for most of the evil in the universe – and feeble-hearted allies, far rather than your most powerful enemies, who are likeliest to do you an injury you cannot recover from.”

L. Neil Smith

I just don't understand why some people have so disparaged my two Presidential campaigns...



Harry Browne

Most of my adult life I've been telling libertarians that electoral politics was a waste of time and money, but so many of you wouldn't listen...



So in 1996 I ran a million-dollar campaign using professional market research and a moderated message of 'lower taxes and less government'...



Then in 2000 I ran another high-dollar campaign that spoke as pure a libertarian message as you can fit into a 30-second T.V. commercial...



Now people are furious because both of those campaigns were a colossal waste of libertarians' money and time!



I've proved that I've been right all along! You people should be grateful for the lesson!



Steve Bishop 2005



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Freedom Networks

by Jason Auvenshine

The primary organizing principle of libertarianism is and must remain the rejection of initiated force. But the rejection of force does not imply that all voluntary organizing principles are equally effective and desirable. Individual action to further freedom needs no coordination or organization. If you see an opportunity to advance freedom that doesn't require anyone's assistance, **just do it!** Seeking a request, permission, blessing, or title from others for such activity is a total waste of time and energy.

However, many opportunities to advance freedom require coordinated action from more than one person. This need is the rational reason we form and join freedom organizations. Unfortunately we tend to simply adopt the organizational models that we are familiar with from other groups. We need to get smarter about it.

There are two basic models for bringing order to the activity of a group of human beings. One model is the hierarchy – characterized by formal roles, titles, and authority-based lines of control within an organization. Businesses and non-profit organizations are usually voluntary hierarchies. The Libertarian Party is a voluntary hierarchy. Government is a non-voluntary hierarchy.

The other organizing model is the network – characterized by adaptive roles, no or self-designated titles, and incentive-based control. The free market and the freedom movement itself are ad hoc network organizations – they arose without any pre-planning. The Internet and the Western Libertarian Alliance are purposeful network organizations – their existence was planned.

The hierarchical model and the network model are radically different ways to organize human activity, but they are not mutually exclusive. Though one model tends to dominate, all organizations incorporate some aspects of both models since neither model is sufficient for solving every problem. I'm advocating a greater and more conscious use of the network model for freedom organizations and activities.

Decision making within hierarchies takes one of two forms: dictatorial or democratic. Businesses tend to be dictatorial (“do what the boss says, or you're fired”), and non-profit/political organizations tend to be democratic (“do what we all vote to do, or leave”). Decision making within a network organization is neither dictatorial nor democratic; it is individual, distributed and market oriented (“you do what you want, and I'll do what I want”).

Because position and political power have a big impact on the actions of a hierarchy, hierarchies have many rules, laws, bylaws, policies, directives, etc. in the attempt to insure the right people get into the right places and make the right decisions at the right time. These rules must change over time to accommodate changing conditions, and participants in hierarchies argue over what the rules ought to be. If you've ever sat through an endless party bylaws debate you know what I'm talking about. Such activity accomplishes nothing for freedom, yet without it the hierarchy cannot function. Networks need few rules and most network participants don't spend a lot of time thinking about the rules, because position and political power have far less impact on the actions of networks.

Hierarchies are formed for a purpose, but that purpose tends to devolve into perpetuating and expanding the hierarchy itself. In Arizona, we call this concept “Steiger's Law”, for Sam Steiger's quote “People involved in a structure spend more time and energy maintaining that structure than in working to-

ward its goals.”* Networks do not suffer from this problem because participants identify with the benefits of the network instead of the structure itself. People will use a network as long as it's useful, and no one has “failed” if a more useful network arises.

Networks can exist within hierarchies, and hierarchies can exist within networks. Understanding the benefits of networks over hierarchies yields some important conclusions:

1. To the greatest extent possible, we should use ad hoc networks (like the overall freedom movement) and purposeful networks (like the WLA) rather than hierarchies to advance freedom. Hierarchies should be used only for those limited tasks that can't be done with a network. Candidate recruitment, brand identity, electing Libertarians to office, media stunts, running listserves, etc. are functions that are best performed by freedom-oriented network organizations rather than a state party hierarchy. As chairman of the Arizona Libertarian Party, the only functions I advocate for the party structure are:

- Maintain ballot and public forum access for candidates.
- Promote individual activism and local Libertarian organizations.
- Act as a point of contact for the public and media who seek a political party.
- Challenge bad laws in court which require party status for legal standing.

2. We should create networks within the hierarchy to accomplish its necessary tasks wherever possible, instead of extending the hierarchy. Market processes should be used instead of political processes. For example:

- Create self-organizing committees where membership is determined by interest, rather than appointing committee chairmen and members.
- Encourage donors to target their money among a choice of projects, with each project's budget being the donations it receives. Don't fund raise for “The Party” and then set project budgets politically.

3. Within hierarchies, for the decisions and tasks that must be done by the hierarchy, use open and democratic processes rather than closed or dictatorial processes.

- Keep meetings and discussions open and uncensored.
- Take a vote of the body rather than exercise the chair's executive power.
- Never cover up bad news, failures, or mistakes.

4. Those involved in hierarchies must continually remind themselves of Steiger's Law, and consciously reject the goal of perpetuating and expanding the hierarchy. Members of a hierarchical organization like the Libertarian Party must be prepared to radically alter or abandon it if the hierarchy ceases to serve the limited purposes for which it is needed.

The third and fourth items are much easier to do if you've done the first and second. They are almost impossible to accomplish in the absence of the first and second.

* Steiger's Law quoted from http://www.buildfreedom.com/whatquestions_2.html

“The whole aim of practical politics is to keep the populace alarmed – and thus clamorous to be led to safety – by menacing it with an endless series of hobgoblins, all of them imaginary.”

H.L. Mencken

Wartime Confessions of a Talk Radio Heretic: On Going Forth a Lamb Among Wolves

A speech by Phoenix Talk Show Host Charles Goyette • Phoenix Economics Group, Phoenix, Arizona • March 19, 2003

I left my radio studio this evening to be here just as President Bush's ultimatum to Saddam Hussein expired. The bombing of Iraq, which has been going on more or less continuously since 1991, at this hour assumes a new intensity, joined by helicopter gunship attacks, and a ground invasion. A headline in the foreign press – I have, after all, become accustomed to getting my news from foreign press – screams, “EXPECTING IRAQI MOTHERS RUSH TO GIVE BIRTH BEFORE WAR! Baghdad: The sound of screaming filled the maternity ward at the Elwiyah Hospital on Tuesday, as women rushed to give birth ahead of an impending US invasion. Many pregnant women demanded to have cesareans rather than risk delivering their babies during war, even though they were sometimes well short of their natural due date.”

Under the circumstances, there is little reason for me to yet again marshal the arguments against war as I have been doing on my daily radio talk show. In any event, the rationale for the war that America wants has shifted so many times that one can hardly know which to refute. Is this war, in defiance of the wishes of the United Nations, a war to uphold the sacred honor of UN Resolutions? But that seems logically inconsistent. Is it a war against Al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden? Or was that last year? Well, it could hardly be about 9/11 since the architects of this war had the blueprints finished years before the attack on America, even before the election of President Bush. Perhaps we need the war for the good of the stock market as we've been told by the likes of Lawrence Kudlow and William Seidman. So far that hasn't worked out too well and the long-term impact of this policy on the American economy and the dollar may hold some very unpleasant surprises. Any significance that Iraq's oil riches can have for this war has been so vehemently denied, that one almost feels foolish believing there actually is oil beneath the ground of Iraq. (Although I should say parenthetically that since oil certainly has nothing to do with it, I hardly know what to make of the 1998 letter to President Clinton urging America to war alone against Iraq because Saddam Hussein is a “hazard” to “a significant portion of the world's supply of oil.” Those who signed that letter more than five years ago include current US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld; Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz; a current Pentagon adviser, Richard Perle; Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State; John Bolton and Paula Dobriansky, Under Secretaries of State; Elliott Abrams, the presidential adviser for the Middle East and a member of the National Security Council; and Peter W. Rodman, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs. That's a mighty impressive list of officials to have all been deluded about the presence of oil in Iraq.)

Perhaps the best reason for this war, or if not the best at least the latest reason for this war, is to liberate the Iraqi people. Yeah, liberation, that's the ticket! We've been so very busy liberating people in the Middle East these many years, liberating these people from the difficulty of finding their own way by propping up their shahs, sheiks, and sultans. Liberate Iraq, the way we liberated them in the Gulf War Part One when we encouraged them to revolt, incited revolution with broadcasts from our CIA posts in Cyprus. Liberate Iraq. Set the people free with Operation Shock and Awe. We wouldn't want anybody getting loose with any weapons of mass destruction so let us open the heavens and rain down some three thousand cruise missiles and bombs in the first 48 hours. And then there's the new MOAB bomb: the Massive Ordnance Air Blast or Mother of All Bombs, 21,000 pounds of explosive – more than ten tons of bomb. It flattens everything around leaving behind only a mushroom cloud. And a liberated Iraq.

This is how force rules. It has become a tried and true proposition. In Vietnam we had to destroy the village in order to protect it. In Waco we had to kill the children in order to save them. And in Iraq, we're sorry, but it will be necessary to slaughter the people in order to liberate them.

Of course hand in hand with liberation of Iraq is democracy for the entire Middle East. Democracy. We believe in Democracy. There'll be Democracy for everybody! Of course, when our representatives voted to pass the Constitutional buck on the war, nobody had told them it was to bring democracy to the Middle East. And you wouldn't want to put it to a vote in the United Nations General Assembly or even a vote of the Security Council. We'll install democracy just as soon as the Palestinians quit choosing leaders we don't like. Democracy. Even if we have to underwrite the Generalissimo in Pakistan who tossed out the elected government. Democracy. Even if we have to spend billions to bribe the government of Turkey to betray its people, 90 percent of whom oppose this war. Even if we have to vilify European leaders for not defying their constituents who want no part of this war.

Well, you can understand how perplexing it is to enter the ring of public debate and wrestle with this shape-shifting rationale for war. You may be convinced that we are in a foreign adventure because Karl Rove discovered after 9/11 that Bush polls 20 points higher dressed in a bomber jacket. But no sooner do you have it pinned down fair and square, than it morphs into something new. A new focus group shows three out of five Americans' pupils dilate and palms sweat when Bush says, “My job is to protect the American people.” You know they've discovered a new phrase that pays when you hear it uttered in re-

sponse to every question asked in White House press conferences. And if they really need a boost, the President will say it while actually wearing a bomber jacket. Aboard an aircraft carrier.

So then, war is a fait accompli. Mr. Bush shall have his bump in the polls like his father before him. His presidency, indeed by his own acknowledgment his life, is given meaning. But I am a lonely dissenter because I see this wolf of war walks on three legs: fear, deceit, and collectivism.

A HERETIC IN THE PROPAGANDA BUSINESS

1. FEAR

Since September 11, 2001, my industry – the news industry – and most particularly cable television news and talk radio, have been in the fear business. With the exception of greed, there is nothing quite so motivating, no sell quite so easy as fear. And we've been selling it by the tank load.

I am in this business because I enjoy the bare-knuckles of debate about policy, lively discussion of issues, and a laugh about the foibles of our age. But the continual promotional announcements about mushrooms clouds; the near hysterical tone in which the most trivial developments are presented as breath-taking breaking news; the frenzied dance of government and news anchors, of official pronouncements and heightened alert levels, creates a weird symbiosis in which the media serves the state in its relentless grab for bigger budgets and greater police powers; while the state feeds the media's need for high drama and the narcotic of fear.

The disproportionality of our continual state of alarm, our addiction to fear, is evident in the air traveler's submission to utterly pointless and humiliating treatment; in the outbreak of panic at the presence of powdered donuts (whatever did happen to that anthrax investigation by the way, and will we have to bomb Maryland when the truth comes out?); and in the rush to buy plastic sheeting and duct tape, which resulted in more than one death by suffocation. We are witnessing a level of hysteria not seen in a generation, since bomb shelters and school children cowering under their desks.

This is not to say that proportionate measures are not needed in dangerous times, but fear of imminent attack is mesmerizing as we watch and listen and learn where the threat will erupt next. It brings in new viewers, creates extended time spent listening, and higher ratings.

Fear sells.

2. DECEIT

Deceit has ever gone hand in glove




with war. The Spanish-American War of 1898 and the suspicious circumstances of the sinking of the battleship Maine may be ancient history, but it shouldn't be hard to recall the tale of Frederic Remington's request to return home from Cuba because nothing was going on. He was famously told by William Randolph Hearst to remain. “You furnish the pictures and I'll furnish the war.” In no time the Hearst and Pulitzer press frenzy, on no evidence, had the public demanding intervention in Cuba.

Perhaps it is true that the truth comes out eventually, but as Napoleon said, the truth doesn't need to be completely suppressed. It just needs to be delayed until it no longer matters. Does it matter any longer that after 59 years of cover-up, secret documents released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal the extent of the President's foreknowledge of the attack on Pearl Harbor? See Robert B. Stinnett's Day of Deceit. If it matters to you.

I had Daniel Ellsberg on the show a few days ago, famed for risking prison to release the Pentagon Papers. He describes the deceit behind the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, the act that gave Johnson the same unlimited authority to wage the Vietnam War that Bush has been given in the War on Terrorism. The Gulf of Tonkin Incident. The lie that became the pretext for the course of action that had already been designed. Sound familiar? Another gulf, another blueprint for war, drawn up well before the triggering event. If that doesn't sound familiar, how about this from President Johnson: “We are not about to send American boys 9 or 10,000 miles away from home to do what Asian boys ought to be doing for themselves.” Half a million American boys overseas later, and 58,000 dead, we have to wonder why anyone believed him. Couldn't anyone at the time remember similar assurances from Wilson and FDR before their World Wars?

Those who do remember the deceit always vow not to get taken in next time. “We won't get fooled again!” But a generation later, we're told that this time it's different. It's like the high-tech bubble. This is a whole new paradigm, or so the story goes. But reality, like the market, has a way of crashing in. It's

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Scott Bieser

“Liberty's Cartoonist”

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the same old paradigm. “Meet the new boss, same as the old boss”. Surely we should remember Bush the Elder telling a Joint Session of Congress of the threat to Saudi Arabia during the prelude to Gulf War I. The Defense Department – under the same officials pushing Gulf War II - the Defense Department was estimating there were as many as 250,000 Iraqi troops and 1,500 tanks in Kuwait poised in the south to roll into Saudi Arabia. So a reporter at a small Florida newspaper persuaded her bosses to spend \$3,200 on satellite photos. No troops, no tanks. No threat. Meet the new boss, same as the old boss.

3. COLLECTIVISM

Wars are built on fear and deceit. And collectivism. It is to be expected that we would link arms, circle the wagons in times of danger. There is nothing destructive in seeking mutual aid and security in the company of one another. It is only natural to have a special affinity for, and obligations to our own countrymen, those with whom we share community, custom, and culture. This wholesome patriotism is quite unlike a national collectivism that deifies the state, a nationalism that demands obedience. Just as my love for my children cannot detract from your love for your own, the pride I feel for my country should not detract from that which others have for theirs. But a national collectivism that incites contempt and hatred for others is something else entirely. This collectivism, the state raised to divine status, is a prerequisite for aggressive war. If the state is a god, not only can it command all the resources needed for war, but its enemies are nothing but devils and must be destroyed. That this destructive nationalism rules is seen when the talking heads of TV indulge in dehumanizing the opponent. It is heard as the radio hosts encourage a frenzy of hatred for the enemy’s culture, institutions, and people. Of course there is no moral accountability for this behavior because each individual is dissolved in the col-

lective. One last ritual is demanded to make the collectivism complete, one last act of capitulation that I must make along with every one else who opposes this war. We must make a holy vow that we “support our troops.” What this affirmation would mean in reality is almost too silly to contemplate. As if I could refuse to pay the taxes that actually provide for our armies and support our troops. As if I’m somehow empowered to decide what troops and which missions I will support. Support the troops? I’m risking my livelihood trying to keep them from being sent on these deadly and needless foreign adventures. I’ve been nothing if not outspoken that I want these young men and women all to come home to their lives and families. (Or in the alternative, in calling for the middle-aged architects of these wars, the armchair chickenhawks of the War Party, to go to the front lines in their place!) How much more supportive can it get? But the demand for the public declaration is really about something greater than the individual men and women in uniform. It is demanded with vehemence by those whose doubts are forcibly suppressed, whose own responsibility in this blood affair must never be acknowledged. The sin that the aggressive war represents must be a universal sin. All must be stained by the guilt equally, in the hopes that there are no individual consequences. This confession of “support for our troops” – sometimes “support for our president” which achieves the same effect but can be harder for some die-hards to spit out – is a final act of surrender to collectivism.

MY HERESY

This collectivism is also responsible for what could be described as the cowardly behavior of the media, their obsequious deference to the governing authorities. The party line – or it could even be called the Patriotic Line – is established after a crisis. It is capsulized in slogans: “They hate us for our freedom”; “They hate us because we are good”; “You are either with us or against us”; and a host of other Big Brotherisms. Most journalists are willing to toe

the Patriotic Line, at least for a while, sometimes because they doubt their own contrary views, and sometimes out of fear. Dan Rather told the BBC last year that it was a form of self-censorship, of patriotism run amok. So how do I account for my own heresy, a talk show host on an explicitly conservative station surrounded by what have been called “The Windbags of War”? My view is a Socratic one: that self-knowledge is the basis of all wisdom. One might wish that it would be given us to see not just ourselves, but our country, as others see us. Just as we can be psychologically blind to our own faults, so too do we shut our eyes to the deceit, hypocrisy, criminality and violence of our own government. Jung makes clear that this quest for self-knowledge can be an unpleasant undertaking and is preoccupied with bringing to light the psychological shadow, one’s own dark and rejected nature. Oh, yes, terrible things happen, but it is always others who do them. Yes, children are starved and deprived and die by the thousands, but we have no complicity. Yes, we have been bombing them for years, but we have solid legal grounds for doing so. In fact, says Jung, a persistent disregard for our own collective shadow can make us an instrument of evil. This call to self-knowledge is, I have found, a pretty hard sell in the popular media. We know ourselves to be good, and we mean well, and we have laws, and besides, only left-wing America-haters blame America first. And in regarding ourselves as harmless we add stupidity to our destructiveness.

PRO-WAR v. ANTI-WAR One last point that I would like to make, although I feel I should warn you that I may not make it well, because its outlines are just becoming clear to me in the course of the public debate. There is a sense in which being pro-war and being anti-war are very much alike. The stakes are raised, antagonists are spotlighted and vilified, battle-lines are drawn, casualties are created. Emotions run high, anger and hatred fill the psycho-sphere! In their extreme form, the pro-war want their enemy’s land nuked into a glass bowl, while the anti-war hope for the kind of widespread calamity that will vindicate their position. War, god I love it! Anti-war, glorious anti-war! Locked together in an eternal embrace of action and reaction! But I am not sure that peace is created in such battles of force and resistance. The I Ching says the only effective way to overcome evil is to make continual progress in the good. Jesus spoke of the same spiritual principle. This group has often invoked the wisdom of the late Leonard Read, who founded the Foundation for Economic Education at the end of the last world war. Read was a wonderful champion of freedom and self-improvement. He understood this philosophy of continual progress in the good. This volume of his essays, which he generously signed for me before his death, begins with an epigram from Emerson:

“Great men are they who see that spiritual is stronger than material force, that thoughts rule the world.”

“I have little interest in streamlining government or in making it more efficient, for I mean to reduce its size. I do not undertake to promote welfare, for I propose to extend freedom. My aim is not to pass laws, but to repeal them. It is not to inaugurate new programs, but to cancel old ones that do violence to the Constitution, or that have failed in their purpose, or that impose on the people an unwarranted financial burden. I will not attempt to discover whether legislation is ‘needed’ before I have first determined whether it is constitutionally permissible. And if I should later be attacked for neglecting my constituents’ interests, I shall reply that I was informed their main interest is liberty and that in that cause I am doing the very best I can.”

Barry Goldwater, “The Conscience of a Conservative”



The War to Make Us Feel Good About Ourselves

by Mike Dugger

When I was growing up and doing my time in the local government indoctrination center, a.k.a., public school, I recall being appalled to learn about Nazi Germany and the havoc it wreaked in Europe and elsewhere. I know I wasn’t alone in my revulsion, or in asking the question; how could a civilized nation such as Germany have sunk to such morally repugnant state? The question was a rhetorical one; although one would certainly like to understand what happened so as to be able to recognize and head off a repeat in the future. Here was a nation that, despite great hardship visited upon it in the wake of World War I, had managed to emerge as the industrial and cultural center of Europe by the end of the 1920s. I’m sure that the social and cultural dynamics in Germany were diverse and it would be naïve to say that any one thing led to the rise and fall of the Third Reich. All the same, I have my own theory about what may have been at the root of what proved to be a terrible phenomenon. I would characterize it as a psychological undercurrent that was endemic to the German people by the 1930s. The end of World War I saw the defeat of Germany and was quickly followed by the Treaty of Versailles’ imposition of crushing reparations on the Germans. This, in turn, led to the hyperinflation

of the 1920s and the destruction of the German economy. In the end they were left with little more than their common culture and an abiding psychic need to redeem themselves as a nation. In short, they were beset by a monumental case of low self-esteem despite their considerable wealth in the arts and modern industrial capability. Toss into the mixture a group of fanatics who both soothed their feelings of inadequacy (super race) and provided them with a plausible scapegoat (the Jews) for their problems. The rest is sordid history. Granted this is a simple, in-a-nutshell explanation for the events that set the world to war and led to tens of millions of deaths, but I think it has merit and I doubt I’m the first to advance the idea. My point in all of this is that what has led me to this understanding, aside from some knowledge of history, is that I’ve been watching a frighteningly similar dynamic at work much closer to home. In the U.S. of today the situation is somewhat similar; though it also has some stark differences. Americans have their own case of low self-esteem despite the fact that we are the predominant power on the planet both militarily and economically. The fact that our numerous recent military excursions have failed at subjugating indigenous third-world populations plays on the subconscious

of many Americans. Never mind that the projects from Viet Nam to Somalia were ill-considered and failed for lack of fundamental common sense by the leadership that undertook them. Many Americans feel inadequate because of these “defeats.” Even the trouncing of Iraq in the Gulf War leaves them unfulfilled because “we didn’t finish the job.” This self-esteem factor is less influential in the current context than it was in Nazi Germany, but it remains as a psychological undercurrent just the same. What magnifies it today is its reinforcement by modern day evangelicalism. We’ve gone from making the world safe for democracy to launching a crusade to impose it on other countries

militarily. In my view this is simply the American analog to Hitler’s “Thousand Year Reich.” Once we’re in charge of the world everything will be just hunky-dory. Of course it will have to be just the right kind of democracy. In the context of Iraq, democracy can be defined as two Shiites and a Sunni voting on who will become the martyr. For all his ruthlessness, one must concede that Saddam stabilized this religious factionalism by his imposition of a secular State in Iraq. By removing him we let loose the binds that have held this religious conflict at bay. This is a great deal like the dissolution of Yugoslavia following the passing of Marshall Tito. Ironically, any success we are likely to see in this regard will be the result of these two adversaries uniting to oust our occupation forces. The price will be huge in terms of American blood and treasure. It will be even larger in terms of Iraqi blood and treasure. I hate to think what it will do to Americans’ self-esteem.

For more than 30 years, my family's shop has installed brakes that stop on a dime.

But in the name of “redevelopment,” the City of Mesa wanted to take my shop and give it to a developer for a privately owned hardware store.

I fought to protect my property rights ... and yours.

And I won.

I am IJ.

Randy Bailey
Mesa, AZ

www.IJ.org/arizona

Institute for Justice
Property rights litigation

Communities for Cats

by *Claire Wolfe*

Have you felt it? Suddenly, after years of idle talk, there's a current in the air. There's a change coming for people who crave freedom.

We freedom lovers have been trying to save the world. But the world isn't interested in our kind of "saving." Maybe it will be, once government has gotten even more tyrannical and people are desperate enough to take risks. But today?

Time to save ourselves, folks. And our kids. And to save freedom – even if we have to save it by practicing it – like ancient Christians in the Roman catacombs – in secrecy.

It's time to start gulching.

What's gulching?

Gulching is the act of physically retreating from the mainstream world in company with other freedom seekers. In a gulch, you trade freely with free people, live quietly, and preserve your values in hopes of bringing them back to the outside world later. As a community, you practice as much self-sufficiency as possible.

"Gulching" is named after Galt's Gulch, the hidden mountain community to which the heroes of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* retreated when their increasingly socialistic world used and abused them.

To gulch is to retreat. But not to be defeated. It's a strategic retreat. It's regrouping. It's marshalling our resources for a future foray.

Gulching is for those who are most passionately committed to living what we believe, not as lone Outlaws, but as members of a free society.

And hallelujah -- gulching is precisely what a small, but important, number of freedom seekers have finally begun to do.

But isn't the whole notion just plain impractical?

Anybody reading this article could probably make a list of 100 reasons why the idea of gulching is completely hare-brained, impractical, unsuitable for individualists, and too difficult to accomplish under the nose of the surveillance state.

- Because you can't herd cats.
- Because people have to work for a living & gulches must be remote.
- Because they'll Waco you.
- Because it's too expensive to build a gulch.
- Because self-sufficiency is an absurd ideal in this day and age, and it's inefficient, besides.
- Because they'll Waco you.
- Because you can't ever hope to hide an entire community from the surveillance state.
- Because if you set up free-market community services like banking or medical care without regulation ... they'll Waco you.
- Because technology – for communications, health care, etc. -- requires expensive equipment and/or extensive infrastructure that an isolated community can't provide.
- Because they'll Waco you.

Yep. All true. If we're looking for good reasons not to act, we can find a million of them. But ... What if we could ...?

Gulch without gulching. Hide in plain sight.

Ayn Rand protected Galt's Gulch from sight with a marvelous "ray screen" that made the gentle valley look like a

forbidding mountaintop. Then damn, she forgot to leave us the instructions for building that thingy.

No matter. Today, we have a few tools Rand's heroes didn't have. Interstate highways. The Internet (and better still, for our purposes, the old FidoNet!). Readily available public-key encryption. A nationwide – even worldwide – network of freedom activists. Nevada and Wyoming corporations. Cellphones. Phone scramblers. Several ongoing free-state projects (which could play a very different role than they were set up to play). And many more assets no one writer could think of.

We also have very creative brains – brains that can invent, and execute, new kinds of gulches.

Because after all, a gulch doesn't have to be exactly what Ayn Rand described. A gulch doesn't even have to be all in one place.

What if our gulches looked like this:

Joe Liberty, his wife, and kids own 80 acres in Montana. Not far away, a developer is selling 40-acre parcels of primitive recreation land on EZ terms for \$500 per acre. Joe invites his brother and his cousin to buy land a mile away from his spread. Joe's wife Jill persuades her best friend, an RN, to buy her own parcel, also. The investment and commitment are minimal at this point. People can re-locate at their own pace and in the meantime, they've got vacation property – probably owned in the name of a corporation or a trust. They control their own spreads – no communalism. No big "compound" to be Wacoed. Yet they can trade skills and goods, do some degree of mutual defense, and otherwise function as a rural community – without anyone outside even realizing a freedom community exists.

Thirty miles away Tomasina Paine and Patricia Henry buy a home in a small town, where they can open up a retail store. Dr. H. David Throeau also moves to that little town and sets up his medical practice there, just because he likes its quality of life. And so do Daisy Crockett and her husband Jefferson. Nobody makes any big fuss about "taking over" or "changing the local culture." They just do it. Because it's a place they like to be. It's a bit off the beaten path, but they can still earn a living.

In a larger town, software geek Sam L. Adams doesn't move at all. He just stays at home and helps set up communications networks.

Communications

Each mini-settlement creates a secure, intra-community form of communication -- secure both in terms of privacy and in terms of being strong against attack.

Gradually, the mini-settlements also set up intercommunity communications networks.

These networks might use Freenet (freenet.sourceforge.net/index.php?page=faq) and/or use the old FidoNet (www.fidonet.org) protocols. Individual computers are RFI shielded to keep from broadcasting their activity to waiting electronic ears. Those few gulches that actually have physically connected homesteads might use underground utility connections between dwellings – and for that matter, underground tunnels for other purposes.

However they set it up, the communities then use these communications

networks not just to share information, but to do real, community-type things in the real world.

Mini-Gulch A doesn't necessarily know exactly where Mini-Gulch B is located or who's involved with it – merely what services it can provide. Gulch B has well-drilling equipment. Gulch D has a breeder of border collies. Gulch X has a science teacher. Gulch Z has a brewer. Gulch M has an IT manager.

The communities trade – gradually weaning themselves from FRNs and switching to digital gold or barter. And as the outside world is forced ever deeper into the web of national ID, databases, regulations, and surveillance, the gulch network turns ever more inward, relying on its growing numbers to provide goods and services that dissenting individuals can no longer obtain privately, freely, and legally in the mainstream. Or to provide goods and services that are untaxed, unregulated, and unrecorded by government.

Some services and goods are independent of location. Others are very dependent on location – like health care, for example. But even some of those intimate services can be provided with discretion: "Chiropractor needed for individual in Coos County, New Hampshire" – says the relayed announcement, source undisclosed. "Internist and full range of clinic services available to gold-paying customers in Pocatello, Idaho."

Information can be passed via traditional cell structures, augmented by anonymous electronic communications. More services become feasible as the community networks grow. People who initially kept "outside" jobs come in from the cold. Institutions are established – quietly, always quietly.

There's no timeline, no mass movement, no big project. There's just individuals and small groups making very practical connections – more and more of them as tyranny siezes the outside world.

Theoretically, you could gulch – or at least be part of a gulching network -- without ever leaving home. For example, you could offer your urban townhouse as a station on an underground railroad or (like Sam L. Adams) as a communications hub. Or your could be a "beard" who provides respectable cover or pseudo-mainstream employment for undocumented citizens.

Bear, one of the participants on The Claire Files discussion forums (www.thementalmilitia.org/clairefiles), put it well. "Think of a gulch as an extended neighborhood."

Advantages

- Because recruitment for any one mini-community is small-scale, you can succeed if you get only five or six families to join you.
- You're recruiting people with whom you already have trusted relationships. That's no guarantee of security or stability – but it beats the heck out of figuring out whether you can trust a stranger.
- Gulches where each participant owns property avoid some of the loss of control and built-in dissension that come with communal or corporate efforts.
- There's something for everybody. You

don't have to become a primitive homesteader or move to a remote area unless you want to.

- The gulches are perfectly legal – though many activities within them won't be. (So what else is new?)
- The temptation – and the ability – to "Waco" any one gulch is less because of the utter lack of "compounds." Even if one mini-community is attacked, others on the outside can get help, alert the news media, etc. (as the Branch Davidians could not).

Difficulties

- Because recruitment must remain private, it will necessarily be gradual.
- Many individuals will have to take initiative if many mini-communities are to be built – and most people don't like taking initiative.
- Any large-scale endeavor has a problem with people opening their yaps. This system is no exception. However, with "node" and cell communications the risk is minimized.
- The difficulties and dangers of setting up and maintaining unregulated businesses can't be understated. They are vast.
- When relying on underground – that is, black-market – services, there's an exceptional amount of trust required and risk taken. If your free-market banker absconds with your gold credits, the fedgov is not going to step in and make you whole again.
- A gulch cannot totally remove you from "the real world" by magic. It can only do as much as the individuals within it are capable of doing and are willing to risk doing.

No reason not to begin

This short article can't even begin to solve all the problems of such a gulch-network system – or describe all its workings and virtues. But what I'm taking about is also not airy theory.

People are already building gulches. Some are already starting to network their gulches, planning to trade skills, services, and resources.

The folks I know who are making gulching work are neither jumping into the project on impulse nor sitting around stymying themselves on the overwhelming challenges. They're setting a few basic goals ... then leaping in with a handful of like-minded people to solve the problems "in real-time."

The great beauty of this style of gulching is that it works whether 40 or 40,000 participants ultimately get involved. A tiny community that can only trade vegetables, water, communication, and self-defense skills is still better than no community at all. A larger network of communities that can provide medical services, black-market pharmaceuticals, unregulated jobs, free-market banking services, and more is better yet.

But either is better than being forever a lone-wolf Outlaw or living a life of endless, soul-crushing compromise with no hope of escaping the tender embrace of the state.

*For more information see:
The Claire Files forums
(click on the Gulching forum):
www.thementalmilitia.org/clairefiles
The Gulchers Guide*

Civil Disobedience (1849)

I heartily accept the motto,

“That government is the best which governs least”; and I should like to see it acted up to more rapidly and systematically. Carried out, it finally amounts to this, which also I believe- “That government is best which governs not at all”; and when men are prepared for it, that will be the kind of government which they will have.

Henry David Thoreau

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Choose Your Future: With Guns and Freedom - or Without

A statement from Gun Owners of America, KeepandBearArms.com, and others in support of JPFO and Innocents Betrayed

Here's a Future where millions understand, right down to gut level, that "gun control" kills. These future citizens know that civilian gun ownership makes the world safer and happier. This is the world we WILL have once a critical mass of people see the life-changing documentary film, *Innocents Betrayed*:

This world isn't perfect, but people are empowered to guard their families from harm. Children play safely under the protection of their mothers and fathers. This future resembles the "simpler, sweeter" times of the past. But it's better because there's so much less tyranny and violence lying ahead.

Criminals never know who might be able to fight back because nobody knows who's carrying guns. There are no government databases of gun owners. Nobody has to ask the government's permission to defend her own life.

Firearms are inexpensive. All the pointless bans and restrictions have been removed and people once again have entered the gun-making and gun-dealing business.

You can buy your self-defense weapons privately though the mail, without waiting periods or asking permission.

Governments are polite to citizens. Government employees once again understand that they are public servants, not masters. Conniving politicians and gun-prohibitionists are no longer tolerated.

There's less chance your son or daughter will be used as cannon fodder—sent to die in some country you've never heard of because the people of that country were too feeble to overthrow their own tyrants.

Wives, mothers, sisters, students, and college professors all understand why firearms matter. They understand emotionally, as well as intellectually. Women honor the men who care enough to protect them - and women are better able to protect themselves against rape and abuse.

Genocide never happens again. There are no holocausts, no mass slaughters, no boxcars full of innocents. All around the world, religious and ethnic minorities practice community self-defense.

Millions understand that they—and you—have a right to defend life and liberty. Self-defense once again takes its place as the first law of nature—a respected right of all civilized human beings.

How does one 58-minute film make all this happen? Because it goes right to the gut. Without arguing about laws, statistics, or legal interpretations, it reaches right in and changes minds and hearts by *SHOWING*, in the most unforgettable way, what happens to people whose governments impose "reasonable gun control."

Once they've seen "Innocents," we already know that people from all walks of life, all beliefs, sit stunned and shocked—and then stop believing that "gun control" is good for them. They understand "gun control" is a vicious dog disguised as a friendly, protective dog.

It's that simple, that fast. All it takes is getting enough people to see the movie an we eradicate gun hate.

Just show the movie.

NOW if you prefer, here's a future where millions go on imagining that "gun control" will make them safe. This is a world where *Innocents Betrayed* never gets outside the realm of Second-Amendment supporters:

This future looks (and smells) familiar because we're already on its borders.

Gangs roam the streets, trading in banned weapons—some taken from you by the government—as well as other forbidden goods. Violence in the

cities soars.

Women frantically call 911, but stalkers, abusers, and rapists know they have plenty of time to do their deeds then get away before the police arrive.

Corrupt politicians seize more and more power, knowing that submissive and disarmed citizens not only won't resist, but are helplessly dependent on government favors and "protection."

You turn in your guns or live in fear of the government jackboot at your door. Turn in your guns and you live in fear anyway.

You can't even have the simple pleasure of taking your son or daughter out plinking on a Saturday afternoon. Your only access to firearms is at a government-controlled facility, where you're allowed to fire a rationed number of .22 shorts at paper targets. Government officials take careful note of your proficiency. Those who shoot "too much" or "too well" are watched by federal agents.

Sport hunting no longer exists. All game is reserved for government cronies. Or game animals are allowed to overpopulate, destroy the environment, and die of starvation and disease in the name of "environmentalism."

Detention camps are filled with unpopular minorities, "enemies of government," and people who've violated minor, technical laws.

Soldiers patrol American streets, trained to see everyone as a potential enemy.

Ultimately you may not even have a

choice about the job you do, the schooling your children get, or the doctor you go to. Because the government has given itself the right to make all decisions. And you're helpless to resist the utopian schemes of your "leaders," because one act after another of "reasonable gun control" has eaten away not only your gun-rights, but your freedom.

Around the world, millions continue to be slaughtered by their own "protectors" ... their own governments. And suddenly, because you're helpless, even your nice, civilized country is no longer exempt from the ultimate horrors.

How does the absence of one 58-minute film lead to this horrific chaos? Because no matter how many intellectual or legal arguments gun-rights groups make, people's hearts remain dedicated to the program of the "gun controllers." People remain tragically ignorant of history's #1 lesson: That when self-defense is against the law, anyone, including your own government, can kill you.

If they see *Innocents*, they stop. They turn around. They change. They understand the value of firearms in citizens' hands. That fast. No long arguments. No millions of dollars spent. No losing battles. They just get it.

Nothing like *Innocents* has ever come along before. Because nothing has ever reached "the TV generation" as this film has.

For the first time, gun owners have it easy. You don't have to go out and buy all kinds of books or magazines. You don't have to memorize hundreds

of laws or statistics. You don't have to beg politicians. Just show the film. Then sit back.

Gun-rights groups are putting aside their differences for the moment. ALL of us need to get behind this film. If this film succeeds, then all our jobs become easier. Barriers to freedom fall.

Our goal: For 5 million people to see *Innocents Betrayed*. If 5 million see it, then show it to their friends, then the "gun control" illusion will topple. People will not only KNOW better. They'll have seen for themselves.

Americans will once again have the common sense glowingly described by Thomas Paine. They'll have the courage of Patrick Henry. And they'll have the tools to ensure that courage and common sense can live into future generations.

Signed:

Aaron Zelman, JPFO

(<http://www.jpfo.org/ib-orders.htm>)

Larry Pratt, Gun Owners of America

(<http://www.gunowners.org/jpfoib.htm>)

Angel Shamaya, KeepandBearArms.com

(<http://keepandbeararms.com/news>

[archives/XcNewsPlus.asp?cmd=view&articleid=2822](http://keepandbeararms.com/news))

Sunni Maravillosa, Free-Market.net

(<http://www.free-market.net/features/bookoftthemonth/giftideas.html>)

Claire Wolfe, Clairewolfe.com

(<http://www.clairewolfe.com/special>

[offers.html](http://www.clairewolfe.com/special))

To Make A Difference:

Purchase *Innocents Betrayed* from any of the above signers, using the links provided. Watch it. Then spread it around. Give a copy to your local library. Ask your favorite gun store to sell it. Get your favorite gun-rights group to sell it. (They'll make money while expanding freedom.) Show it to people who say they care about civil rights. Change five million minds, and we change the future.

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The Devil’s Right Hand (IRS)

by Larken Rose, February 6, 2003

Here’s a Future where millions un- What does the Devil’s right hand look like? I don’t mean this to be particularly religious or biblical; I just want to know--whatever “evil” is--what is the main mechanism by which it is served? Adolph Hitler? Stalin? Charles Manson? Jeffrey Dahmer? The Columbine shooters? Nope. Not even close. Let’s get out the score card.

How many people did Manson, Dahmer, and the Columbine shooters kill? A few dozen, at most. I don’t mean to downplay the horrible nature of their atrocities, but on a purely statistical level, they hardly register in the big scheme of things.

“Oooo, oooo, I know! Stalin, Mao, and Hitler!”

Actually, no. How many people actually died at the hands of those individuals? Not very many (again, in the big scheme of things). “Well, maybe they didn’t do the actual killing, but they orchestrated mass murder!” True. And what was their primary tool?

The true threats to humanity are not the Hitlers, the Dahmers, and the Mansons. Those who have a view of reality that twisted--those who have no regard for human life, or even delight in the suffering or death of others--are few and far between. They are outnumbered (and perhaps more importantly, out-gunned) at least a million to one.

No, as disturbing as the occasional psychotic, sadistic murderer is, that is NOT what society needs to worry about. Let’s look at the other column on the score card. The grand total is in the hundreds of millions of human beings tortured and murdered. And who is responsible? Who accomplished atrocities way beyond what the famous mass-murders accomplished?

Average, generally decent human beings, who did the wrong thing BECAUSE SOMEONE IN “AUTHORITY” TOLD THEM TO. They are the Devil’s Right Hand. Remove that blind

obedience to imagined “authority”--just getting those people to use their OWN judgment instead of following someone else’s--and you remove 99 percent of murder from the earth.

Unfortunately, that’s easier said than done. Check out the 1994 book, *Death by Government*, by R. J. Rummel.

It’s easier for us to imagine a nasty, malicious, “insane” villain as our enemy. How many Hollywood movies spend all the movie making the top bad guy so evil that you can’t wait until he dies at the end (in the most gruesome manner that special effects can buy)?

Trouble is, those are NOT the implementers of evil in the real world. Your neighbor is the implementer of evil. Yeah, that nice guy who helped you jump-start your car last week. Yeah, the one who is such a great dad to his three kids. That’s the one. That’s the Devil’s right hand.

What that “nice guy” would have been doing at this age, had he been born in 1910 in Germany, would be driving the truck that delivers the cyanide pellets to the camps where the gas chambers are. Mind you, he doesn’t make the gas, or set up the gas chambers, or push the people in, or open the valve, or burn the bodies. No, he just drives the truck. That’s all. He’s just doing his job and serving his country.

Well, that’s what the “nice guy” WOULD have been doing, had he been born in Germany in 1910. But he wasn’t. He was born in America, the land of the free and the home of the brave, in 1960. He now works as a Revenue Agent for the Internal Revenue Service. Mind you, he doesn’t arrest anyone or seize anyone’s property. He just does the paperwork the way his bosses tell him to. That’s all. He’s just doing his job and serving his country.

Know your enemy. Your enemy is not Darth Vader, or Sauron, or Dr. Evil. Your enemy is that “nice guy” next door. If you want to see just how scary

he really is, I highly recommend a book titled *Obedience to Authority*, which is a detailed psychological study by Stanley Milgram (done back in the 1960s). I’ll let the book give you all the gruesome details, but the punchline is this: The vast majority of your neighbors will KNOWINGLY INFLICT PAIN AND SUFFERING ON YOU if someone they perceive as “authority” tells them to. If that were not the case, there would be no IRS.

For any who have tried to reason with an IRS agent, tried to show them the law, tried to get “justice” out of a judge, or tried to get the IRS to not rob them, you have all the evidence you need. Yes, the IRS certainly has its share of sadistic, power-happy fruitcakes. Steward Stich in Sarasota, Florida, comes to mind. But mostly the IRS is populated by average folk, who are “just following orders.” They take no responsibility for their actions, they avoid original thought like the plague, and they are immune to any evidence or logic that goes against what their bosses tell them to do. In short, they are the Devil’s right hand.

It’s easy to cheer for the super-villain in any movie to be subject to some horrible death. How about the 20-year-old German kid on the front lines in World War II, who doesn’t know what he’s doing there, is just trying to do what he is told, and thinks he is somehow nobly serving the Fatherland? It’s not as easy to hate him or to wish death upon him.

Unfortunately, as revolting as it is that generally decent folk do horrible things under the direction of some perceived “authority,” it gets worse. You have a choice: Kill the misguided kid--and thousands like him--or let Hitler rule the world.

Reality bites, doesn’t it?

In the fight to end the “income tax” deception, thankfully it has been (at least for the most part) nonviolent. However, that uncomfortable choice is still there. You must either intention-

ally inflict stress and discomfort on that “nice guy,” or let him continue to rob your friends and neighbors. There is no other choice. So which is it going to be?

Many of you have already felt the frustration and anger that comes from dealing with the faceless, responsibility-free bureaucracy called the IRS. You can’t wait for Darth Vader to show up, so you can lop his head off with your light saber. But he doesn’t show. Instead, you’re faced with some ignorant paper-pusher whose vast knowledge of law and procedure consists of being able to read “the courts have ruled that to be frivolous” off a form letter that his bosses sent him. He--and 90,000 others like him--are what you are up against. You are not fighting arch-villains; you are fighting cowardly “obeyers.”

You have a choice: Hurt them or be hurt by them. Which will it be?

No, I don’t mean smashing their kneecaps. I mean making their jobs absolutely miserable, in every legal way you can think of, as long as they refuse to obey their own regulations. If you won’t do it, you can rest assured that they WILL make your friends’ and neighbors’ lives miserable.

If you examine history and read *Obedience to Authority*, it should be clear what your options are. To be nice, appeal to their reason and rationale once, on the off chance that they are among the very few capable of thinking and acting on their own, CONTRARY to what “authority” tells them to do. After that, resort to their aversion to discomfort. Train them as you would train a pit bull: “If you hurt me, I will hurt you worse.” Unfortunately, as many millions have learned throughout history, there is only one other choice: Submit to absolute tyranny.

Government beaurocrats are the “Crumbs” of the crop.

Steve Porak

Are you still Pledging?

by Ernest Hancock

Here’s a Future where millions un- Should the words “Under God” be retained in the Pledge? Keep the people asking the questions you want them to and you don’t have to answer the tough questions.

America was founded on the idea that it was the individual that was to be pledged allegiance to by our government servants. Arizona’s State Constitution is very clear on the purpose of government in our own Declaration of Rights. ‘Political Power, purpose of government:’ “All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights.”

A senior editor at the Cato Institute, Gene Healy, explains in his November 2003 article, “What’s Conservative about the Pledge of Allegiance?”, how the pledge was written by a Christian Socialist in 1892. Francis Bellamy was inspired by the writings of his cousin Edward Bellamy that advocated that the United States become a worker’s paradise where everyone had the same income and would work jobs they were ‘drafted’ to do at the age of 21. These ideas were popular, but not so popular as to keep Francis Bellamy from being pushed from the pulpit for giving such sermons as “Jesus the Socialist”.

Edward Bellamy’s book “Looking Backward” inspired “Nationalist Clubs” that campaigned for a government takeover of the economy. Francis saw the public schools as the place to begin the

indoctrination and with the help of the National Education Association and the editors of a popular children’s magazine “Youth’s Companion”, the Pledge was adopted as part of the National Public School Celebration on Columbus Day in 1892. Bellamy had considered adding “equality” to the “liberty and justice for all” phrase, but he realized that would draw objections from people opposed to equality for women and African Americans. At its “debut” (October 12, 1892) more than 12 million children recited the “Pledge of Allegiance” thus beginning a required school-day ritual. At the first National Flag Conference in Washington D.C., on June 14, 1923, a change was made. For clarity, the words “the Flag of the United States” replaced “my flag”. In 1942, Congress officially recognized the Pledge of Allegiance.

When President Dwight Eisenhower signed the 1954 act that added “under God”, he declared: “From this day forward, millions of our school children will daily proclaim ... the dedication of our nation and our people to the Almighty.” But people of faith are starting to question the support of this ritual of subordination to a government, that was designed to be subordinate to the individual and their right to worship free of government influence, prohibition... or ‘official’ sanction.

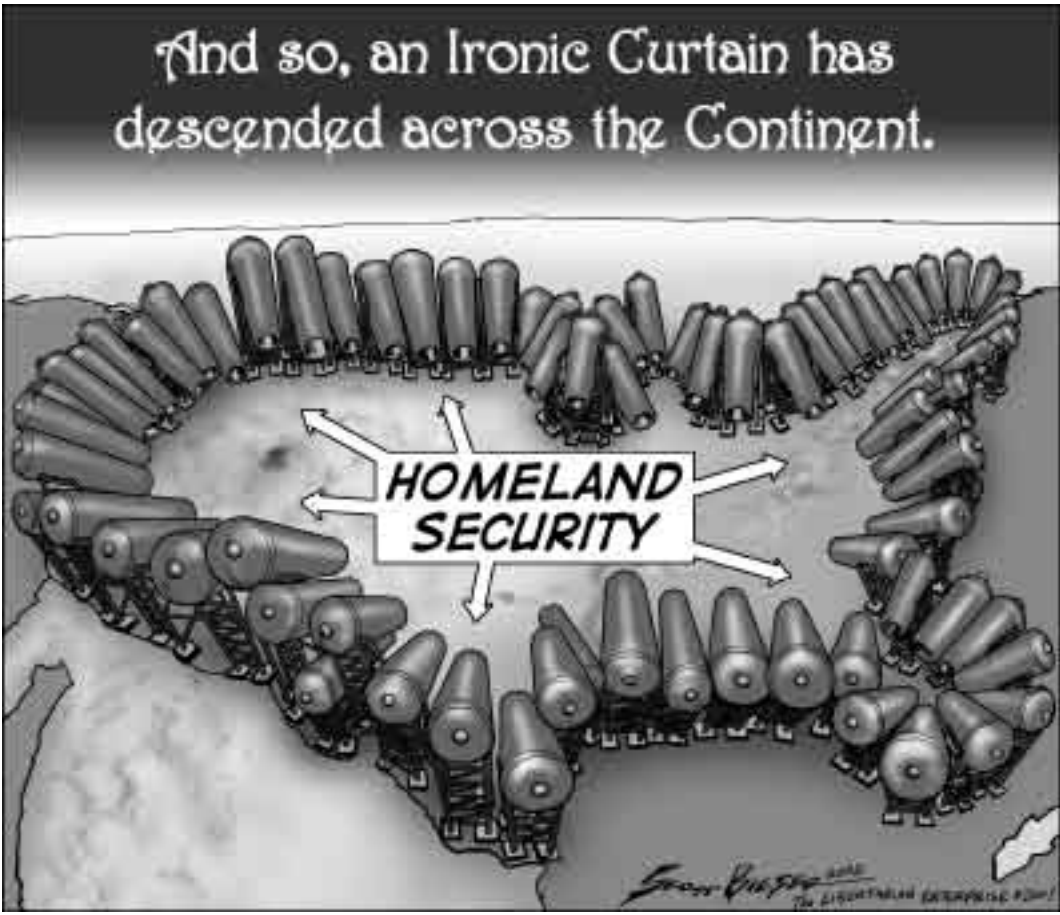
Cato’s Mr. Healy describes the original ritual,... “At a signal from the Principal the pupils, in ordered ranks, hands to the side, face the Flag. Another signal is given; every pupil gives the Flag the

military salute--right hand lifted, palm downward, to a line with the forehead and close to it... At the words, ‘to my Flag,’ the right hand is extended gracefully, palm upward, towards the Flag, and remains in this gesture till the end of the affirmation; whereupon all hands immediately drop to the side.” After the rise of Nazism, this form of salute was thought to be in poor taste, to say the least, and replaced with today’s hand-on-heart gesture.

We are warned in the book of James 5:12 – “But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other

oath...”

So if you have determined on your own that swearing an oath of loyalty to any government makes you feel uncomfortable, maybe you’ll find some solace in the fact that you are not alone. But what should also be of concern is that the only question being forwarded in the media is ‘should we and our children be taught to Pledge Allegiance to a secular state in the name of God?’ I think the question, “Should we swear an oath of loyalty to any government”, is a far more interesting question worthy of debate.



Ever notice how those who believe in animal rights generally don't believe in human rights?

L. Neil Smith

The Crime of Conscription

by *Rep. Ron Paul, MD*

The ultimate cost of war is almost always the loss of liberty. True defensive wars and revolutionary wars against tyrants may preserve or establish a free society, as did our war against the British. But these wars are rare. Most wars are unnecessary, dangerous, and cause senseless suffering with little being gained. The result of most conflicts throughout the ages has been loss of liberty and life on both sides. The current war in which we find ourselves clearly qualifies as one of those unnecessary and dangerous wars. To get the people to support ill-conceived wars, the nation's leaders employ grand schemes of deception.

Woodrow Wilson orchestrated our entry into World War I by first promising during the election of 1916 to keep us out of the European conflict, then a few months later pressuring and maneuvering Congress into declaring war against Germany. Whether it was the Spanish American War before that or all the wars since, U.S. presidents have deceived the people to gain popular support for ill-conceived military ventures. Wilson wanted the war and immediately demanded conscription to fight it. He didn't have the guts even to name the program a military draft; instead in a speech before Congress calling for war he advised the army should be "chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service." Most Americans at the time of the declaration didn't believe actual combat troops would be sent. What a dramatic change from this early perception, when the people endorsed the war, to the carnage that followed – and the later disillusionment with Wilson and his grand scheme for world government under the League of Nations. The American people rejected this gross new entanglement, a reflection of a somewhat healthier age than the one we find ourselves in today.

But when it comes to war, the principle of deception lives on. The plan for "universal liability to serve" once again is raising its ugly head. The dollar cost of the current war is already staggering, yet plans are being made to drastically expand the human cost by forcing con-

scription on the young men (and maybe women) who have no ax to grind with the Iraqi people and want no part of this fight.

Hundreds of Americans have already been killed, and thousands more wounded and crippled, while thousands of others will experience new and deadly war-related illnesses not yet identified.

We were told we had to support this pre-emptive war against Iraq because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction (and to confront al Qaeda). It was said our national security depended on it. But all these dangers were found not to exist in Iraq. It was implied that lack of support for this Iraqi invasion was un-American and unpatriotic.

Since the original reasons for the war never existed, it is now claimed that we're there to make Iraq a western-style democracy and to spread western values. And besides, it's argued, it's nice that Saddam Hussein has been removed from power. But does the mere existence of evil somewhere in the world justify preemptive war at the expense of the American people? Utopian dreams, fulfilled by autocratic means, hardly qualify as being morally justifiable.

These after-the-fact excuses for invasion and occupation of a sovereign nation direct attention away from the charge that the military industrial complex encouraged this war. It was encouraged by war profiteering, a desire to control natural resources (oil), and a Neo-con agenda of American hegemony with the goal of redrawing the borders of the countries of the Middle East.

The inevitable failure of such a seriously flawed foreign policy cannot be contemplated by those who have put so much energy into this occupation. The current quagmire prompts calls from many for escalation, with more troops being sent to Iraq. Many of our reservists and National Guardsmen cannot wait to get out and have no plans to re-enlist. The odds are that our policy of foreign intervention, which has been with us for many decades, is not likely to soon change. The dilemma of how to win an un-winnable war is the issue

begging for an answer.

To get more troops, the draft will likely be reinstated. The implicit prohibition of "involuntary servitude" under the 13th Amendment to the Constitution has already been ignored many times so few will challenge the constitutionality of the coming draft.

Unpopular wars invite conscription. Volunteers disappear, as well they should. A truly defensive just war prompts popular support. A conscripted, unhappy soldier is better off on the long run than the slaves of old since the "enslavement" is only temporary. But in the short run the draft may well turn out to be more deadly and degrading, as one is forced to commit life and limb to a less than worthy cause – like teaching democracy to unwilling and angry Arabs. Slaves were safer in that their owners had an economic interest in protecting their lives. Endangering the lives of our soldiers is acceptable policy, and that's why they are needed. Too often, though, our men and women who are exposed to the hostilities of war and welcomed initially are easily forgotten after the fighting ends. Soon afterward, the injured and the sick are ignored and forgotten.

It is said we go about the world waging war to promote peace, and yet the price paid is rarely weighed against the failed efforts to make the world a better place. Justifying conscription to promote the cause of liberty is one of the most bizarre notions ever conceived by man! Forced servitude, with the risk of death and serious injury as a price to live free, makes no sense. What right does anyone have to sacrifice the lives of others for some cause of questionable value? Even if well motivated it can't justify using force on uninterested persons.

It's said that the 18-year-old owes it to his country. Hogwash! It just as easily could be argued that a 50 year-old chicken-hawk, who promotes war and places the danger on innocent young people, owes a heck of a lot more to the country than the 18-year-old being denied his liberty for a cause that has no justification.

All drafts are unfair. All 18- and 19-

year-olds are never drafted. By its very nature a draft must be discriminatory. All drafts hit the most vulnerable young people, as the elites learn quickly how to avoid the risks of combat.

The dollar cost of war and the economic hardship is great in all wars and cannot be minimized. War is never economically beneficial except for those in position to profit from war expenditures. The great tragedy of war is the careless disregard for civil liberties of our own people. Abuses of German and Japanese Americans in World War I and World War II are well known.

But the real sacrifice comes with conscription – forcing a small number of young vulnerable citizens to fight the wars that older men and women, who seek glory in military victory without themselves being exposed to danger, promote. These are wars with neither purpose nor moral justification, and too often not even declared by the Congress.

Without conscription, unpopular wars are much more difficult to fight. Once the draft was undermined in the 1960s and early 1970s, the Vietnam War came to an end. But most importantly, liberty cannot be preserved by tyranny. A free society must always resort to volunteers. Tyrants think nothing of forcing men to fight and serve in wrong-headed wars; a true fight for survival and defense of America would elicit, I'm sure, the assistance of every able-bodied man and woman. This is not the case for wars of mischief far away from home in which we so often have found ourselves in the past century.

One of the worst votes that an elected official could ever cast would be to institute a military draft to fight an illegal war, if that individual himself maneuvered to avoid military service. But avoiding the draft on principle qualifies oneself to work hard to avoid all unnecessary war and oppose the draft for all others.

A government that is willing to enslave a portion of its people to fight an unjust war can never be trusted to protect the liberties of its own citizens. The ends can never justify the means, no matter what the Neo-cons say.

November 26, 2003

Dr. Ron Paul is a Republican member of the U.S. Congress from Texas.

Don't Waste Your Vote

by *Craig Straitar*

Stop wasting your vote! America is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave. What has been happening to our country? Politicians from "both" parties have passed bills like the USA PATRIOT Act and still have the audacity to tell us that they are concerned about our freedom. Why are we continuing to allow this to happen?

What is the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans? What issues do they actually disagree on? They both advocate the exact same foreign policy. Both favor centralized banking, corporate welfare, the PATRIOT Act, wars on countries that were never capable of attacking us, the federal disaster known as the Department of Education, and both agree that they are allowed to ignore the Constitution whenever it suits them. This is unacceptable.

My opponent in the upcoming election, Jeff Flake, secured his seat with sixty five percent of the vote in the last election, largely because this Republican claimed to be a small "I" libertarian. I do not believe that politicians should be able to get away with claiming to be one of the good guys in order to get elected and then vote in favor of intrusive government programs after they get into office. It is astounding that a person could claim to be a libertarian after voting for

the PATRIOT Act, and while supporting a Constitutional amendment that would further involve government in America's churches.

Jeff Flake was elected because people believed that they were voting for a libertarian, because people believed they were voting for freedom. However, I did not serve as an Army Ranger to passively watch the lying politicians strip our rights away from us. This November, I will give Arizona's the choice that we thought we had when Jeff Flake told us that he believed in freedom.

Arizona has always been a strong state for the nation's third largest party, and the LP's numbers are growing at a much faster rate than either the Republicans or the Democrats. The Libertarian Party already has a former presidential candidate serving in the House of Representatives (who ran as a "Republican" in Texas), and victories for libertarians with an "L" behind their respective names are just around the corner.

I believe that freedom is contagious. However, due to corruption in the government, Americans are becoming less free every day. Republicans and Democrats alike have strayed from the course of freedom and have become content in attempting to convince America that the next elected politicians from their party

will fix the mess that they have created.

I believe that freedom will not be achieved by giving one more chance to the same people who have been slowly taking it away from us. We have a Constitution in this country to limit the damage that politicians can do to us. "We, the People" did not give certain privileges to the government just so that they could pay lip service to our Constitution when they pass legislation that goes beyond the power that WE gave them. If we were to infringe upon the Constitutional rights of others, we would be punished, but there is currently no such accountability in Washington D.C. When politicians break the law and take our liberty away from us,

they should be punished just like any other criminal.

I believe that you know how to make the decisions that affect your life better than anybody else does. Your neighbors do not own your life.

Bureaucrats do not own your life. Congress does not own your life. Even the President does not own your life. Your neighbors are your equals under the eyes of the law and elected officials exist to serve YOU, not the other way around. Stop electing politicians that believe that you serve them and start electing politicians who believe in freedom. Voting is a statement of who you are. Vote for freedom. Vote for liberty. Vote Libertarian!



“The most dangerous and successful conspiracies take place in public, in plain sight, under the clear, bright light of day – usually with TV cameras focused on them.”

L. Neil Smith



by Kent Van Cleave

A TALE OF A TOOL

MY DAD GOT UPSET every time he caught me using a screwdriver as a chisel, pounding away at some unfortunate piece of wood. His view was that every tool had its purpose, and that was that. It never seemed to occur to him that, given one's ultimate aim, it might make more sense to use a tool for a not-as-designed, "unapproved" purpose. Maybe a tool can have more value doing something its designer never dreamed of, than it could simply by doing its intended job.

Example: You're in a locked room, and the building catches fire. There's one window that you just can't open. There's also a fire extinguisher, which might buy you some extra time (fighting the fire in the way it is designed to do) before you become a seriously crispy critter. But what if you think of using the fire extinguisher to break out the window so you can get out? Is that some kind of "design abuse" crime? I don't think so.

Plenty of Libertarians are like my Dad. They think the Libertarian Party is a political party, meaning its purpose is to elect people to office so that they can (1) start chiseling away at the unnecessary and illegitimate functions of bloated government, and (2) show Americans just how great libertarian leaders can be, leading to more elected Libertarians.

What if that turns out not to be the best way we can use the political party apparatus?

What if the fastest, most effective route to liberty is not to put people into public office, then use their political position as a chisel to chip away at government excess? What if it is instead to use our political chisel as a screwdriver (suppress those shudders!) and put the screws to politicians and bureaucrats so thoroughly that they dismantle Big Government themselves?

Remember, we have a political party because we hope it will be an effective means to an end: a society governed by the single principle that nobody (including, and especially government agents and officials) is justified in initiating force against anyone ("initiating" means using or threatening force without provocation; responsive force in self-defense or to gain compensation for harm is always justified when judiciously applied).

We libertarians know that if nobody ever starts a fight, we don't have to worry about ending it. And that the best, most effective way to prevent people from starting fights is to jump on aggressors with both feet ... sporting cleats.

So the real point is that we want a free society in which individual rights are protected.

Clearly, electing just a few Libertarians to office can't accomplish either of these goals. Elected Libertarians can expect no support from non-Libertarian officials ... so what then? Ah ... maybe we succeed in electing a whole bunch of Libertarians. We'll outnumber the opposition and get our way! The early Libertarians who get elected and can't manage to accomplish anything will be reelected on the strength of their stellar records. Right.

Does anyone imagine that committed R's and D's wouldn't (or couldn't) join forces to oust any uppity Libertarians who started making serious waves early on?

OK, so there's a huge gulf between getting your first Libertarian candidate elected and outnumbering the opposition. Let's look a little deeper.

WAYS TO SKIN THIS CAT

How many ways are there to achieve political change? Here's a partial list:

(1) Get a whole bunch of people elected to state, local, and federal legis-

lative bodies, and simply pass the laws. Oh ... and elect the chief executives, too, so the laws will be signed. To get there, you'd better not be too radical; that could lose you not only the support of new voters, but access for your politicians to the real players from the major parties, with whom they'll need to negotiate compromises along the way.

(2) Use state initiatives to pass your own laws (in states that allow that process).

(3) Show politicians already in office that they can't stay there without implementing reforms.

Now, of these three methods, (1) is closest to the standard LP model. The party has been focused on building membership and electing officials to reach that very goal. But just think of how difficult this approach is -- and how long it will take, even if it's successful! Not only is there the problem of achieving "critical mass" for political change, but there are problems with LP credibility when this method is pursued. What the heck is a Libertarian zoning commissioner supposed to do? The very job description ("I determine what you can do with your property.") is so completely anti-libertarian that even being in the office is hypocritical for a libertarian.

So ... think about how many political offices really can't be held by a principled libertarian who denies the legitimacy of any government function that doesn't protect individual rights. Unless it's an election for your sheriff or justice of the peace (locally), a governor or legislator (at the state level), or a Congresscritter or president (nationally) -- in other words, an election for some office that belongs in some reasonably libertarian form of government ... well, for a committed libertarian, there's a problem. Narrows the field a bit, eh?

Much success has come from approach number (2) ... but do we really want to rely on this method? This is raw democracy -- two wolves and a sheep voting on what's for lunch. Sure, we can probably get some reforms this way, but we'd better not rely on it, and we'll have trouble justifying our use of this method.

Ahhh! Option (3) is absolutely brimming with possibilities.

And each one is based on pain.

A STUDY IN PAIN

Pain? Sure, it sounds a bit sadistic ... but remember, these folks deserve every smidgin of pain we can dish out.

So ... what counts as pain for a politician? That's pretty straight-forward:

(a) Losing votes (which may cost reelection).

(b) Embarrassment in public (damning letters to the editor, news stories, rumors, etc.) that can damage a political career.

(c) Loss of funding from contributors ... probably due to (b).

(d) Being preempted by public initiative. Talk about rejection!

(e) Being overturned in the courts -- or worse, being held civilly or criminally liable for abuses of power.

(f) Being made to look ridiculous.

You almost have to feel sorry for the twerps. They are soooooo vulnerable!

Let's just skip the first three options; how to approach them is fairly obvious. In Arizona there's been a good deal of reform brought about through option (d). I'm sure many other states can cite comparable successes. The term "Ernie laws" describes laws passed by the Arizona Legislature when they realized that there was so much public support behind reforms being advanced by libertarian activist Ernest Hancock (and his allies) that they knew an initiative would pass -- one eliminating more control than they wanted to relinquish. Solution? They just craft a compromise

measure that gives up a little bit less. The wind goes out of the sails of the initiative movement, and they get credit for moving in the popular direction. This is one of those win-win situations for us: either we win the vote on the very popular initiative, or we win as the politicians capitulate in order to salvage a smidgin of dignity.

Case in point: libertarian pressure for unrestricted "Vermont" carry of firearms quickly inspires the legislature to pass a concealed carry law. [Note: Nobody had to get elected in the scenario above, no libertarians compromised their principles, and no animals were harmed in the making of this film.]

Option (e) is among the most interesting of all, because there are two ways we can win. On the one hand, if the court hasn't been completely assimilated by the Borg ("the cult of the omnipotent state," as we once described it in our Statement of Principles for the LP), they might actually decide in your favor. And on the other hand, when the court has been Borgified (and our case is, as usual, a clean-cut appeal to fundamental human rights), their ruling is a bright, flashing, neon-bright marquee telling the public that the courts no longer provide the safeguard they were designed to embody. Nope ... they've gone to the Dark Side, and are serving the Emperor. If this doesn't sound like progress, just think of how much fruitless effort might have been expended in the courts -- perhaps for years -- with no one understanding that the game was rigged. It's bad news when you learn your courts are tools for tyranny, but better the news comes early, and leaves egg all over those black robes!

On to item (f) -- and more fun and games! You know, when Rush Limbaugh talks about enjoying "more fun than a human being should be allowed to have," he captures the flavor of this approach -- but he's limited to having fun at the expense of the liberal wing of America's socialist party, while we have that plus the conservative wing as sitting-duck targets. Parenthetically, this is a key Western Libertarian Alliance (WLA) theme: "If you're not having fun, you're not doing it right!" There is something deliciously entertaining about putting statist politicians in an uncomfortable position. That feeling fuels activism like nothing else -- not money, not sex (well ... who ever offered you sex for promoting freedom?), not double chocolate fudge ice cream. And the energy you get from this kind of entertainment can sustain you through many less successful campaigns.

Just to make that parenthetical point excruciatingly clear, consider what

the Democrats and Republicans pride themselves on: for the D's, it's rejection of violence; for the R's, it's morality. But every single proposal floated by the D's requires the threat of force against those who won't support it and comply with it ... and every single moralistic proposal floated by the R's requires that individuals abandon their personal moral judgment and simply comply with whatever is "required" of them.

Really. We're supposed to worry about the groundswell of public support these parties have? Only if we haven't pointed out the comical contradictions in their positions. Option (f) is an absolute gimme!

So ... start pointing and laughing!

GO FOR IT THIS YEAR!

Plan to run for office as part of the L-Team? Don't have a zillion bucks to pull off a close third, let alone win the race? Instead of wearing yourself out campaigning for your two or three percent as an ordinary "I can be a politician, too!" candidate, get crazy and have some fun.

- Have a friend run against you in the primary election, and the two of you do a Mutt-and-Jeff routine on the opposition -- a sort of "Tastes awful!" and "Too filling!" kind of debate over which of each candidate's statist failings are the most obnoxious and harmful.

- Tell voters, "I'm not here to tell you I can win. I'm here to tell you why you couldn't elect me if you wanted to." Then explain about how their votes are held hostage to the insane plurality voting system America has adopted. Put in a plug for election reform, changing to, say, the approval voting method that lets voters pick all candidates they can tolerate. Show them how VoteBuddy.com can help them vote their dreams instead of their fears. Remember to stress that if the major parties wanted to empower your vote, they would have long ago. And don't forget to make big fun of the new electronic vote vaporizers being installed at polling places everywhere!

- Have fun showing how liberal programs depend entirely on threats and violence, and how conservatives undermine real morality by trying to legislate their own versions. Use examples from the records of your opponents.

- Get fun-loving friends to spend time campaigning -- not for you, but "for" your opponents, "promoting" the worst consequences of their policies. Then comment a bit more reasonably on the issues when asked about these shennigans.

Be creative. And remember: "If you're not havin' fun, you're not doing it right!"

"There is nothing remotely like this magazine."

—National Journal

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Free Minds and Free Markets

Ayn Rand

by Rachel Tivnan, age 17

Objectivism is the philosophy of “reason, individualism, and capitalism” formulated by Ayn Rand. Ayn Rand’s ideas and philosophy have been popular ever since people took the time to read them. What made her ideas so intriguing? Why are they still enticing to society now? The answer to that is that Rand wanted to create man as a hero and wrote in a way that made it possible for any one to be the hero, and that is what the American society wanted.

When Rand first began writing and publishing her works the fear of communism was spreading. Communism is a philosophy of government which promotes a collective utopia based on the working society. Communism is the idea that all work towards a common or communal goal for the good of the whole. But with the corrupt world leaders who did not get where they were by being the best or elected to their position by the “whole” used a totalitarian dictatorship to get what they wanted. This way of government did not benefit the whole, this type of collective socialism only helped those on top get higher and those down below sink deeper. But Rand’s ideas of egoism, and individualism combined with capitalism, to form her hero is exactly what the America needed.

Although Rand was not born in

America she is still considered a great American twentieth century writer. Ayn Rand was born in Russia, but from her earliest years felt alienated from the dark, sober atmosphere of Russia. She thoroughly opposed the mysticism and collectivism of Russian culture. By the age of nine Rand had decided that she wanted to be a writer because it helped her to escape the tyranny of her surroundings. Russian culture did not allow man to be a hero, there is no individual in the collectivism of Russian society, there is no room for a hero. Due to her strong resistance to Russian culture Rand considered her self a European writer not Russian.

Even though Ayn Rand considered Europe better than Russia it was America that she used for her model of what a nation of free men could be. It was in America where man was free, an individual, and had potential to be a hero. Rand’s first novel *We the Living*, which was based on her years under Soviet tyranny, was not well received by American intellectuals and reviewers. She had to fight the pro-communism dominating American culture during the “the Red Decade”, even though the nation was supposedly against the communism spreading through out the world. In her novel *We the Living* Rand is reprimanding communism, and either the reviewers and intellectuals did not see this or misinterpreted her views.

The next novel Ayn Rand wrote was *Anthem*. This book was written in 1937 but was not published until 1946. The new ideas may have been misinterpreted by reviewers like with *We the Living*.

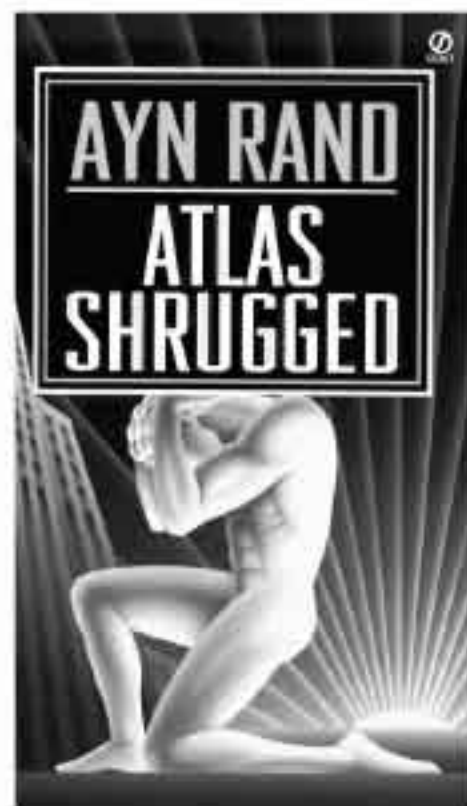
During this time the cold war was just beginning to flare up and the U.S. was trying to fight the rise of communism, but had been reflecting the same ideals, by rejecting works of literature that were in a way propaganda for their cause. In the book *Anthem* Rand is putting down collectivism that is mirrored in communism and socialism, but still the book was not published until most of the excitement had died down. Even with the drawbacks she continued to write.

Later Rand’s goal in writing was to create the ideal man. Man as he could and ought to be. Man as a hero. This goal was achieved in 1943 when *The Fountainhead* was published. The main character in this novel is an architect and demands the right to build and design loyal only to his own ideas and principles. He stays true to himself and fights collectivism. *The Fountainhead* gained for Rand lasting recognition as a hero of individualism. This novel is what first presented her provocative mortality of rational egoism. Now America could see the hero in her works, and was more open to her ideas.

Atlas Shrugged was Ayn Rand’s greatest achievement and her last work of fiction. In this novel she was able to dramatize her unique philosophy in an intellectual mystery story. Rand had to identify the philosophic principles which make heroic fictional character possible. She had to formulate a philosophy for living on earth. This philosophy of “reason, individualism, and capitalism” she called “objectivism”. Objectivism was a way for Rand to formulate her hero, reason is something all men possess, may it

be small or large amounts; individualism in a way is just high self-esteem; and capitalism is an economic system where the individual can thrive or fail on his own.

Rand was so popular because of the appeal of the heroes in her books and her new intriguing ideas. Triumph of the individual was so popular because someone could reach that on their own. Man as he could and ought to be, America’s hero the “free” man in the land of the “free” is what Ayn Rand created and is what everyone wanted to believe in. Rand is still popular because people still want to believe that man is “free”. Society still wants that hero, that man as he can and someday will be.



Immigration is bad because....

by Ernest Hancock

It’s not hard to find a libertarian who would argue for open immigration, just as it wouldn’t be hard to find a libertarian (often the same ones) understanding the reasons for closing the borders. A human wave of opportunity seekers are using our public schools, our public roads, our public libraries, our public transportation, our public healthcare, our public welfare, our public land, our public parks, and so on.

In a constitutional world none of these entities would have the words, “our public” in front of them. Private enterprise in the free-market would determine what was available to whom and the only regulation needed would come from the forces of voluntary supply and demand principles. Arguments would be adjudicated in a court where the government paid judge would be a disinterested third party “hired” by the lightly taxed residents of that particular jurisdiction. Private property and associational rights would determine who could go where and how and govern-

ment would only be expected to simply keep the peace. (Law Enforcement Officers use to be called Peace Officers)

What is interesting is how it is only government programs that cause us all to suffer from ‘more customers’. In a free-market the more customers there are the better. Both Social and Economic engineering has sapped the life force from the most productive in our country. Freedom supporters don’t see a difference in having their money stolen from them to fund a Social Welfare program that provides healthcare, from having their money stolen to fund the building of a sports stadium or any other public ‘make money project’ for Corporate Welfare recipients.

How much expense legal and/or illegal immigration is counter balanced by the contribution of increased labor and lower cost goods and services in this country has yet to be adequately addressed and is of little interest to me since I am far more focused on the root cause of the turmoil. To blame the cost

of government programs on the most motivated from other countries that are willing to get off their asses to attempt to find a better life in America as a law abiding resident is misplaced. The criminal element seeping into this country is far less feared by me than the criminals in Washington D.C. and our own state and local governments because it is there that the ability to rob us blind has been elevated to a fine art and enables the most notorious at the receiving end of what has been plundered from us.

The idea that America is a land of law and that those laws are to be enforced evenly for all human beings no matter where they are from is very important to our freedoms. What has been most damaging is the idea that political support can be bought with other people’s money. Who lines up to get it is of less importance to me than the legalized theft that allows the various troughs to feed from in the first place.

The immigration issue has been very successful at getting the wrong ques-

tions asked... again. Instead of, “Should illegal immigrants get free healthcare?” We should be asking, “Why is the government stealing from me to pay for another’s healthcare?” Instead of, “Why are we subsidizing the use of our public libraries and public transportation so illegal immigrants can have a higher standard of living, at our expense?” We should be asking, “Why are we being stolen from in order to fund public entities that would be replaced with more efficient free-market solutions?”

With practice we can all learn to ask the more important questions to determine where the initiation of force originated and how best to eliminate the greatest evils in our society. With years of observation it has become very easy for me to see that it was the threat of government force that convinced Arizona’s that they must provide the billions that are eagerly consumed by the rich and poor who are constantly encouraged to get in line for a handout by the very same people that stole my money in the first place.

“Freedom’s the Answer ... What’s the Question?”

What are you doing to promote Freedom?

by Gary Fallon

I have been a libertarian candidate 6 times since 1992: State Representative (1992,1994), State Senate (1996,1998,2000), Mayor (1995) and Governor (2002). I’ve never been under the illusion that I was going to win the office but my campaigns have always won.

Yes, the victory has always been spreading an uncompromised freedom message to those thirsting for one. Running for office with the intent to educate is a worthy cause. It gives you access to those outside your normal circle of family, friends and business associates.

If you are running to “get elected” in 2004 you have about as much chance to win as your vote counting. If that’s your main objective then I’d suggest that you

don’t waste your time or money. You will have accomplished nothing other than create a false expectation for yourself and donors.

Instead, put your energy toward pursuing freedom within your own life. An easy thing to do is to assess your current lifestyle. Are you practicing what you preach? At minimum, you should be able to answer “no” to these three simple questions:

- 1) Am I employed by a government agency?
- 2) Is my source of income derived from government contracts?
- 3) Are my children attending government schools?

If you answered “yes” to any of these you should strongly consider making personal changes. How successful do you think you can be at persuading others to the philosophy of liberty when you are unwilling to live it yourself? How many fat people advertise for exercise products?

Hopefully, one would consider this just the minimum threshold of “unplugging” from the government’s matrix. Borrowing from the book of Romans 12:2 “Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind (atheists can stop here), that

you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.”

Regardless of the tyranny surrounding each of us, we can take joy in the journey toward our own personal freedom. Be sure to share your success with others. If you choose to share it through campaigning, do so by educating others to free their minds (who cares if they vote?) – it’s our best chance of restoring liberty!



Credit, Deflation and the Federal Reserve ... by Robert R. Prechter, Jr. continued

to be next in line.

Why the Fed Cannot Stop Deflation

Countless people say that dollar deflation is impossible because the Federal Reserve Bank can just print money to stave off deflation. If the Fed’s main jobs were simply establishing new checking accounts and grinding out banknotes, that’s what it might do. But in terms of volume, that has not been the Fed’s primary function, which for 90 years has been in fact to foster the expansion of credit. Printed fiat currency depends almost entirely upon the whims of the issuer, but credit is another matter entirely. If people and corporations are unwilling to borrow or unable to finance debt, and if banks and investors are disinclined to lend, central banks cannot force them to do so. During deflation, the central bank cannot even induce them to do so with a zero interest rate, as we have seen in Japan. Thus, regardless of assertions to the contrary, the Fed’s purported “control” of borrowing, lending and interest rates ultimately depends upon an accommodating market psychology and cannot be set by decree. So ultimately, the Fed does not control either interest rates or the total supply of credit; the market does. A change in the population’s mental state from a desire to expand to a desire to conserve will be the trigger for deflation.

Might the Fed decide to print banknotes to counter deflation and stave off bank failures? One can imagine a scenario in which the Fed, beginning soon after the onset of deflation, trades banknotes for portfolios of bad loans, replacing a sea of bad debt with an equal ocean of banknotes, thus smoothly monetizing all defaults in the system without a ripple of protest, reaction or deflation. There are two problems with this scenario. One is that the Fed is a bank – a private bank -- and it would have no desire to go broke buying up worthless portfolios, debasing its own reserves to nothing. Only a government mandate triggered by crisis could compel such an action, which would come only after deflation had ravaged the system. Even in 1933, when the Fed agreed to monetize some banks’ loans, it offered cash in exchange for only the very best loans in the banks’ portfolios, not the precarious ones. Second, the smooth reflation scenario is an ivory-tower concoction that sounds plausible only by

omitting human beings from it. While the Fed could embark on an aggressive plan to liquefy the banking system with cash in response to a developing credit crisis, that action itself ironically could serve to aggravate deflation, not relieve it. In a defensive emotional environment, evidence that the Fed or the government had decided to adopt a deliberate policy of inflating the currency could give bondholders an excuse, justified or not, to panic. It could be taken as evidence that the crisis is worse than they thought, which would make them fear defaults among weak borrowers, or that hyperinflation lay ahead, which could make them fear the depreciation of all dollar-denominated debt. Nervous holders of suspect debt that was near expiration could simply decline to exercise their option to repurchase it once the current holding term ran out. Fearful holders of suspect long-term debt far from expiration could dump their notes and bonds on the market, making prices collapse. If this were to happen, the net result of an attempt at inflating would be a system-wide reduction in the purchasing power of dollar-denominated debt, in other words, a drop in the dollar value of total credit extended, which is deflation.

The myth of Fed omnipotence has three main countervailing forces: the bond market, the gold market and the currency market. With today’s full disclosure of central banks’ activities, governments and central banks cannot hide their monetary decisions. Indications that the Fed had adopted an unwelcome policy would spread immediately around the world, and markets would adjust accordingly. Downward adjustments in bond prices could easily negate and even outrun the Fed’s attempts at undesired money or credit expansion.

The problems that the Fed faces are due to the fact that the world is not so much awash in money as it is awash in credit. The amount of outstanding credit today dwarfs the quantity of money, so debt investors, who can always choose to sell bonds in large quantities, are now in the driver’s seat with respect to interest rates, currency values and the total quantity of credit. So they, not the Fed, are also in charge of the prospects for inflation and deflation. The Fed has become a slave to trends that it has fostered for seventy years and to events that have already transpired. For the Fed, the mass of credit that it has nursed into the world is like having raised King Kong

from babyhood as a pet. He might behave, but only if you can figure out what he wants and keep him satisfied. Now you know why the Bank of Japan has not just “printed money” to combat deflation.

In the context of our discussion, the Fed has four relevant tasks: to keep the banking system liquid, to maintain the public’s confidence in banks, to maintain the market’s faith in the value of Treasury securities, which constitute its own reserves, and to maintain the integrity of the dollar relative to other currencies, since dollars are the basis of the Fed’s power. In a system-wide financial crisis, these goals will conflict. If the Fed chooses to favor any one of these goals, the others will be at least compromised, possibly doomed. What path the Fed will take under pressure is unknown, but it is important to know that it is under no obligation to save the banks, print money or pursue any other rescue. Its primary legal obligation is to provide

backing for the nation’s currency, which it could quite merrily fulfill no matter what happens to the banking system.

Endgame

Prior excesses have resulted in a lack of solutions to the deflation problem. Like the discomfort of drug addiction withdrawal, the discomfort of credit addiction withdrawal cannot be avoided. The time to have thought about avoiding a system-wide deflation was years ago. Now it’s too late.

It does not matter how it happens; in the right psychological environment, deflation will win, at least initially. People today, raised in the benign, expansive environment of the great bull market, love to quote the conventional wisdom, “Don’t fight the Fed.” Now that the environment is about to change, I think that the cry of the truly wise should be, “Don’t fight the crash. Just get out of the way.”

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Born Free (no state birth certificates) by Mark Horning

When Jennifer became pregnant in spring of 2000 we knew in advance that neither of us was comfortable with the modern hospital birth that has become popular in this nation over the past 6 decades. Modern OB/GYNs are trained to be interventionist (resulting in the US having the highest caesarian rate of any nation), and are in many cases beholden not to the patient, but to the insurance and legal industry. This conflict of interest is compounded by the vast regulatory burden placed on our medical industry both by state and federal authorities.

It did not take much research to show that homebirths accompanied by a midwife are much safer, statistically (both to mother and child) than the hospital scenario. This is not to suggest that intervention is always unnecessary, for in certain cases a surgeon is exactly the expert one needs, but rather that for the vast majority of normal pregnancies the risk of infection, overmedication, long recovery, and unnecessary intervention is far lower at home.

Midwifery is beginning to enjoy a renaissance of sorts, with demand for the service increasing faster than would be accounted for by general population

growth. Midwives are, unfortunately, regulated by the various States. This barrier to entry naturally increases costs and decreases competition. Nonetheless, the regulatory burden placed on midwives is far less than that placed on doctors, allowing a far higher standard of care and service. There are at present only a handful of midwives performing home births in Arizona, and only three that I know of in Maricopa County.

After some searching we were referred to Carol, who has been a licensed midwife for over eight years in the State of Arizona. Carol performs routine prenatal exams in her home office and is currently delivering babies at the rate of over 40/year. Carol’s eldest daughter is apprenticing to be a midwife and often functions as Carol’s assistant. I take this to be excellent news for the future.

Our daughter, Honor Amanda Horning, was born in our home on January 2nd. She was delivered without the hectic atmosphere of a hospital and we were able to refuse, without argument, many of the standard medical procedures usually performed immediately after birth, mostly for liability, not medical, reasons. Licensed midwives are required by law in

Arizona to file a certificate of live birth. While one was filed, only the bare minimum information was noted, such as the sex of the baby. We refused to divulge any information on the baby’s name, either of our SSN’s or Jennifer’s maiden name, thus minimizing the form’s usefulness to the state. I, naturally, refused to sign the form which has a place for the signature of the parent or informant (this is the government wording, not mine)

Our midwife was able to write in refused for all of the government tracking information on race, age, medical history etc. that our government uses to keep our nation divided and hyphenated, and to justify their increasing expenditures and regulations. The only benefit a Birth Certificate conveys to the individual (rather than to the state) is as a method of proving citizenship. There are other ways, however, to prove citizenship without resorting to documents of the state. One can obtain a Family Recording Bible, record the birth therein, and this becomes a legal document. For added security, one may then photocopy the page and have it recorded (under miscellaneous documents) at the county recorder’s office, thus using the governments own offices to bypass their own system.

Of great concern, in recent years the various states have, at the insistence of our ever-encroaching federal government, incorporated the social security application on the birth certificate form! It should

come as no surprise to readers of this column that this portion of the form was left blank and unsigned. The Ponzi scheme known as Social Security is “voluntary” after all, though as countless individuals have discovered volunteering out of the system is far more difficult than volunteering in.

A few years later, our second daughter was born, also at home, under similar circumstances, although with a different midwife. Cost of a home delivery is nominal, between one and two thousand dollars, although as with most things there is usually a cash discount.

Freedom never results from complacency. Freedom is derived through intentional action, intelligently directed, and never without forethought. It is important to remember that, when one pathway is blocked, other opportunities, other avenues arise. We shall never cast off the fetters of government monitoring, regulation and intervention unless we first act as if we are free people. We owe it to our children. We owe it to ourselves.

Mark E. Horning lives and works in Arizona. An advocate of Individual Liberty, he is a former member of the Governing Committee of the Arizona State Libertarian Party and served as the 2nd Vice Chair of the Maricopa County Libertarian Party.

What should freedom lovers do ... *by Lew Rockwell* continued

course.

If often happens that an ideological movement will make great strides through education and organization and cultural influence, only to take the illogical leap of believing that politics and political influence, which usually means taking jobs within the bureaucracy, is the next rung on the ladder to success. This is like trying to fight a fire with matches and gasoline. This is what happened to the Christian right in the 1980s. They got involved in politics in order to throw off the yoke of the state. Twenty years later, many of these people are working in the Department of Education or for the White House, doing the prep work to amend the Constitution or invade some foreign country. This is a disastrous waste of intellectual capital.

It is particularly important that believers in liberty not take this course. Government work has been the chosen career path of socialists, social reformers, and Keynesians for at least a century. It is the natural home to them because their ambition is to control society through government. It works for them but it does not work for us.

To become a bureaucrat to fight bureaucracy, to join the state in order to roll it back, makes as much sense as fighting fire with matches and gasoline.

In the first half of the 20th century, libertarians knew how to oppose statism. They went into business and journalism. They wrote books. They agitated within the cultural arena. They developed fortunes to help fund newspapers, schools, foundations, and public education organizations. They expanded their commercial ventures to serve as a bulwark against central planning. They became teachers and, when possible, professors. They cultivated wonderful families and focused on the education of their children.

It is a long struggle but it is the way the struggle for liberty has always taken place. But somewhere along the way, some people, enticed by the prospect of a fast track to reform, rethought this idea. Perhaps we should try the same technique that the left did. We should get our people in power and displace their people, and then we can bring about change toward liberty. In fact, isn't this the most important goal of all? So long as the left controls the state, it will expand in ways that are incompatible with freedom. We need to take back the state.

So goes the logic. What is wrong with it? The state's only function is as an apparatus of coercion and compulsion. That is its distinguishing mark. It is what makes the state the state. To the

same extent that the state responds well to arguments that it should be larger and more powerful, it is institutionally hostile to anyone who says that it should be less powerful and less coercive. That is not to say that some work from the "inside" cannot do some good, some of the time. But it is far more likely that the state will convert the libertarian than for the libertarian to convert the state.

We've all seen this a thousand times. It rarely takes more than a few months for a libertarian intellectual headed for the Beltway to "mature" and realize that his or her old ideals were rather childish and insufficiently real world. A politician promising to defang Washington later becomes the leading expert in applying tooth enamel. Once that fateful step is taken, there are no limits. I know a bureaucrat who helped run martial law in Iraq who once swore fidelity to Rothbardian political economy.

The reason has to do with ambition, which is not normally a bad impulse. The culture of Washington, however, requires that ambition work itself out by paying maximum deference to the powers that be. At first, this is easy to justify: how else can the state be converted except by being friendly to it? The state is our enemy, but for now, we must pretend to be its pal. In time, the dreams are displaced by the daily need to curry favor. Eventually the person becomes precisely the kind of person he or she once despised. (For Lord of the Rings fans, it's like being asked to carry the ring for a while; you don't want to give it up.)

It is far more likely that the state will convert the libertarian than the libertarian will convert the state

I've known people who have gone this route and one day took an honest look in the mirror, and didn't like what they saw. They have said to me that they were mistaken to think it could work. They didn't recognize the subtle ways in which they themselves were being drawn in. They recognize the futility of politely asking the state, day after day, to permit a bit more liberty here and there. Ultimately you must frame your arguments in terms of what is good for the state, and the reality is that liberty is not usually good for the state. Hence, the rhetoric and finally the goal begin to change.

The state is open to persuasion, to be sure, but it usually acts out of fear, not friendship. If the bureaucrats and politicians fear backlash, they will not increase taxes or regulations. If they sense a high enough degree of public outrage, they will even repeal controls and programs. An example is the end of alcohol prohibition or the repeal of the 55 mph speed limit. These were pulled back be-

cause politicians and bureaucrats sensed too high a cost from continued enforcement.

The problem of strategy was something that fascinated Murray Rothbard, who wrote several important articles on the need for never compromising the long-run goal for short-term gain through the political process. That doesn't mean we should not welcome a 1 percent tax cut or repeal a section of some law. But we should never allow ourselves to be sucked into the trade-off racket: e.g., repeal this bad tax to impose this better tax. That would be using a means (a tax) that contradicts the goal (elimination of taxation).

The Rothbardian approach to a pro-freedom strategy comes down to the following four affirmations: 1) the victory of liberty is the highest political end; 2) the proper groundwork for this goal is a moral passion for justice; 3) the end should be pursued by the speediest and most efficacious possible means; and 4) the means taken must never contradict the goal—whether by advocating gradualism, by employing or advocating any aggression against liberty, by advocating planned programs, by failing to seize any opportunities to reduce State power, or by ever increasing it in any area."

Libertarians are not the first people who have confronted the question of strategy for social advance and cultural and political change. After the Civil War, a large part of the population of the South, namely former slaves, found themselves in a perilous situation. They had a crying need to advance socially within society, but lacked education, skill, and capital. They also bore the burden of pushing social change that permitted them to be regarded as full citizens who made the most of their new freedom. In many ways, they found themselves in a position somewhat like new immigrants but with an additional burden of throwing off an old social status for a new one.

The Reconstruction period of Union-run martial law invited many blacks to participate in politics as a primary goal. This proved to be a terrible temptation for many, as the former Virginia slave Booker T. Washington said. "During the whole of the Reconstruction period our people throughout the South looked to the Federal Government for everything, very much as a child looks to its mother." He rejected this political model because "the general political agitation drew the attention of our people away from the more fundamental matters of perfecting themselves in the industries at their doors and in securing property."

The state chews up and either eats or spits out those with a passion for liberty.

Washington wrote that "the temptations to enter political life were so alluring that I came very near yielding to them at one time" but he resisted this in favor of "the laying of the foundation of the race through a generous education of the hand, head and heart." Later when he visited DC, he knew that he had been right. "A large proportion of these people had been drawn to Washington because they felt that they could lead a life of ease there," he wrote. "Others had secured minor government positions, and still another large class was there in the hope of securing Federal positions."

As it was in the 1870s it is today. The state chews up and either eats or spits out those with a passion for liberty. The extent to which W.E.B DuBois's Marxian push for political agitation has prevailed over Washington's push for commercial advance has been tragic for black Americans and for the whole of American society. Many obtained political power but not liberty classically understood.

We can learn from this. The thousands of young people who are discovering the ideas of liberty for the first time ought to stay away from the Beltway and all its allures. Instead, they should pursue their love and passion through arts, commerce, education, and even the ministry. These are fields that offer genuine promise with a high return.

When a libertarian tells me that he is doing some good as a procurement officer at HUD, I don't doubt his word. But how much more would he do by quitting his job and writing an expose on the entire bureaucratic racket? One well-placed blast against such an agency can bring about more reform, and do more good, than decades of attempted subversion from within.

Are there politicians who do some good? Certainly, and the name Ron Paul is the first that comes to mind. But the good he does is not as a legislator as such but as an educator with a prominent platform from which to speak. Every no vote is a lesson to the multitudes. We need more Ron Pauls.

But Ron is the first to say that, more importantly, we need more professors, business owners, fathers and mothers, religious leaders, and entrepreneurs. The party of liberty loves commerce and culture, not the state. Commerce and culture is our home and our launching ground for social reform and revolution.

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L. Neil Smith

THINK





I'm Only Interested in Freedom

by *Sunni Maravillosa*

A colleague and too-infrequent correspondent of mine in the freedom movement has, for as long as I've known him, signed his emails with the line "Only interested in freedom". The first time I saw it, my immediate response was, "*Well, duh!!*", but over time I've come to appreciate some nuances inherent in the phrase. At the risk of sounding like a purist who wants to herd the cats, I've been finding myself wishing more liberty-lovers would adopt the line and its implications.

Anyone who's been in the movement for more than a day knows that we are often our own worst enemies. Far and above all the divisiveness separating Objectivists and Libertarians or anarchists and minarchists is the human tendency to put our own personal interests or desires ahead of freedom. Thus one can find examples of individuals who say they're anarchists supporting laws that coerce individuals into certain behaviors, or that prohibit nonfraudulent, voluntary transactions. In recent conversations with individuals, I've been surprised by emotionalism that often appears to be guiding their thinking, and the negative responses to even hypothetical situations that would challenge the world they want to see.

My recent time in the southwestern desert reaffirmed and refocused my commitment to the freedom movement. I discovered that I am, at heart, "only interested in freedom". To me, that phrase has become a simple metric against which to measure any plan: will this increase individual freedom or decrease it? If it's the latter, I'm against the plan.

I had no idea how unpopular such a simple thing could be.

If no one takes an extreme position for freedom and considers the possibilities, how will we know that our progress is truly that? Without a vision of total freedom to guide our day-to-day choices and thinking, it's all too easy to be sucked into the quagmire of today's unfree systems. I'm not arguing for a utopian solution, nor saying that a Grand Unified Plan for Freedom must be spelled out in excruciating detail before we act. Considering the "impractical extremes" that some libertarians dismiss is essential to our cause, and to our progress. So, for me, thinking about what kinds of justice services might be

offered in a free society is just as important as opening individuals' eyes to the current sham of justice under the so-called "rule of law".

I'm only interested in freedom.

That means that, as far as I'm able (and fortunately, I've a number of good friends who help me when my thinking gets muddled), I don't let personal preferences cloud my thinking about freedom.

Thus, though I despise physical or psychological abuse, I do not advocate more laws to help solve those problems. There's no "solving" something that is part of human nature (which is an animal nature, after all), and I firmly believe that we'd see far fewer cases of infanticide, fratricide, and related horrors in a free society. Similarly, while I don't use many mind-altering substances, I see no reason why my preferences ought to dictate what any other responsible person can do in the privacy of his own home.

I long to see truly free markets. Consumerism has been an evolving process for millennia -- why on earth should we think that it would stop simply because some don't like the thought of "big box stores" replacing smaller-box stores? Farmers used to sell their wares from their farms, or haul them to markets in the nearby towns to sell; then merchants came along to do that task. Then, "Mom and Pop" stores were largely swept aside by supermarkets that were able to offer greater variety and better prices, largely due to technological innovations and economies of scale. Wal-Mart is carrying on the proud economic tradition of supplying consumer demand -- something that I won't shed a tear over. I'm happy to shop at Wal-Mart because they offer a lot of what I want -- decent merchandise at low prices. When I want something special, or a higher level of customer service, I patronize a specialty store, and happily pay for getting what I want.

Zoning regulations that are thinly disguised protectionism for some special group or cause, laws that create artificial scarcity or monopolies, prohibitions on how an individual can earn a living -- they're all cut from the same statist cloth, and I want nothing to do with them. This has apparently horrified some self-proclaimed freedom lov-

ers, for I've been called amoral and disloyal, among other things.

I'm only interested in freedom.

What that means is that I don't care what anyone thinks of *me*, and I don't much care what anyone thinks of my ideas unless he or she can show me -- with clear, reasoned arguments free of loaded definitions -- where I'm wrong. If your view will help get us to a freer world, then I'm all for it. I don't care if I'm right or if I'm wrong -- I just want freedom.

What that means, though, is that no appeal to public good, general interest, or some other group-based outcome or situation will hold any truck with me. Individual liberty is always usurped under those banners. Far too long have they flown, keeping creative, innovative individuals in the thrall of the collectivists who would steal their labors for the benefit of others, under the guise of "public welfare" or some other convenient fiction. It is precisely this sort of horribly misguided justification of the theft of others' time and labor that has enabled and encouraged the statists to continue to steal from each of us, under the guise of "doing good".

It is not good to be a thief -- which is what everyone becomes, whether she wants to or not under the state's programs of welfare and other "services". It is not good to be the recipient of stolen goods -- which is what everyone becomes under as widespread a system of looting and redistributing that we see in the United States today.

I'm only interested in freedom.

I'm not interested in dredging up all history's mistakes and seeking retribution for them -- there are too many, and no innocent parties among adults. I'm only interested in the past insofar as it sheds light on failed solutions, so that we may find better ones to light our way. Patents and copyrights try to create artificial scarcity -- where, thanks to technological advances, none need exist in most areas. A state-supported monopoly is a monopoly of the worst sort; thus I embrace the changes that are coming to creative endeavors that seek to shrug off these outmoded mo-

nopolies. The change is going to be chaotic, and likely very difficult for many, as they adjust to the reality that their preferred way of earning a living will not suffice any longer. This has had personal implications for me, as I had the goal of supporting myself via my writing. But I'm more interested in freedom than serving my short-term wants.

I welcome the future, for all its chaotic change, because I'm confident that freedom will win. There's nothing that the state need provide for us -- private markets unfettered by taxation, state-driven artificialities, or other interference can meet human needs. Indeed, they can do so better, cheaper, and much more reliably.

It's easy for an individual to say that he or she is interested in freedom -- many people profess to be, every day. But many seem to want to be granted permission to be free -- as if any state would voluntarily free all its slaves. Others agitate for freedom in some areas, while overlooking coercive measures that supposedly work to their benefit, or which allegedly help create a nicer world.

We can't break free of our shackles if we don't have our hearts firmly committed to working toward total freedom. We won't create a totally free utopia -- but we can't make as much progress as we might if we don't set our sights on the highest goal possible.

I'm only interested in freedom.

What about you?

Author's note: This essay was inspired in part by Iloilo Marguerite Jones, to whom it is admiringly dedicated.

Sunni Maravillosa is the Director of Operations for Free-Market.Net (<http://www.free-market.net/> <http://www.free-market.net/>), publisher of Doing Freedom! (<http://www.DoingFreedom.com/> <http://www.DoingFreedom.com/>), and cofounder of the Liberty Round Table (<http://www.LibertyRoundTable.org/> <http://www.LibertyRoundTable.org/>). She contributes to Endervidualism (<http://www.endervidualism.com/> <http://www.endervidualism.com/>) and The Price of Liberty (<http://www.thepriceofliberty.org/> <http://www.thepriceofliberty.org/>) as well as maintaining her own site, [SunniMaravillosa.com](http://www.SunniMaravillosa.com).

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The Non-Aggression Guideline

by Jason Auvenshine

The big bad black hole in most libertarians' thinking is "how do you live morally in an unlibertarian world?" Accepting benefits derived from force appears to be contrary to libertarian principle. Yet benefits derived from force are so pervasive in our society that the only way to totally avoid them is to crawl into a hole on your own land and die. This conundrum is especially likely to rear its ugly head whenever a Libertarian candidate considers accepting political welfare (otherwise known as "public campaign funds" or "campaign matching funds"). Many Libertarian candidates and organizations have torn themselves apart over this issue.

Let's start with some things we should all be able to agree on. First, accepting a benefit derived from force that you did not initiate, advocate, or condone is a different kind of act than initiating, advocating, or condoning force in the first place. Second, knowingly accepting any benefit derived from the initiation of force is the same kind of act as knowingly accepting any other benefit derived from force. Third, there is a great deal of difference in the degree of different benefits derived from force. Consider: Driving on a tax funded road, borrowing a public library book, sending your kids to public school, attending a public

university, accepting welfare payments, accepting political welfare for your campaign, and accepting multi-million dollar pork barrel government grants are all benefiting from force, yet I think we can also agree there's a vast difference in degree between those actions.

Some have suggested that accepting benefits derived from force is always morally wrong, but one can simply be forgiven for relatively minor infractions such as driving on a tax funded road or borrowing a public library book.

I reject the availability of "forgiveness" as a factor in the context of making moral determinations. One would have to rely on the "forgiveness" of each and every "victim" before it could have any real meaning...in which case it would be a cinch to take the next logical step and simply privatize the library. Either it is OK to borrow a public library book...or it's not. If it's morally wrong, the fact that your neighbors (even libertarian ones) aren't coming after you with pitch forks for doing it still doesn't make it right. And if it's OK, then saying you are forgiven is false since you haven't done anything wrong to be forgiven for.

I also reject the validity of any moral standard which requires one to crawl in a hole and die in order to be consid-

ered a moral human being. It seems to me to be quite impossible to live in our current society by a standard that says accepting benefits from force is always wrong. Therefore, I reject that standard as a moral absolute. A guideline, on the other hand, makes perfect sense. No libertarian can deny that accepting less benefits from force is better than accepting more benefits from force, all else being equal. Of course, "all else" is almost never equal, which is why it is a matter of individual judgment and circumstance rather than a moral absolute.

Like nearly everyone else, I drive on tax funded the roads. But I want no part of pork barrel government grants, public schools, or political welfare. These are not different in kind from driving on roads, but their difference in degree is simply "over the line" for me. My decisions are based on my own life circumstances and values. Were I significantly wealthier, I might be able to avoid driving on public roads in favor of helicopter transportation. Conversely, if it was illegal to home school our children, I might find it necessary to use public schools (shudder!)

A couple of caveats to be clear:

(1) If it is reasonably possible to return stolen property to its rightful owner, one is always morally obligated to do

so. Fencing stolen goods, whether of the public or private variety, is not a legitimate occupation for a libertarian.

(2) Committing, advocating or delegating an initiation of force is never morally acceptable. It may be morally acceptable to attend a tax funded community college because it's already there. But it is never morally acceptable to advocate for, lobby for, or vote for the existence of the community college in the first place or the taxes which fund it.

What does this mean for libertarians and libertarian organizations? It means that someone accepting a benefit from force, even political welfare, is not automatically disqualified from being a libertarian. But it also means that a person cannot blithely proclaim that there is no difference between accepting political welfare and driving on public roads, and then proceed to feed at the public trough. Accepting political welfare cannot be dismissed out of hand, and must be addressed by the candidate in a frank manner. No candidate I've ever seen has been able to make a convincing case that accepting political welfare is of long term benefit in the fight for freedom.

I refer to this approach as the Non-Aggression Guideline, or NAG. Recognizing situations when the NAG applies will help libertarians reduce factional fighting and improve individual decision making about when to accept and when to reject benefits that are derived from force.

Here fishy, fishy, fishy

by Powell Gammill

Health Care. Such a deal! I will be taken care of by my fellow citizens (through their violently extracted compulsory tax) for all my illnesses from cradle to grave. Sure is nice of all you suckers.

It all starts with Medicare and fishing. When Medicare was first started by the government, doctors had private practices and made a very good living, and patients adored and admired physicians. It was close to worship. Doctors had two kinds of patients, those they charged their normal visitation fee, for the purposes of example let us say \$20, and now Medicare patients, whom the government reimbursed the doctor for at say \$35 a visit. Trolling. Boy, that sure seemed like a good deal to the doctors, and the patient did not mind because the generous, benevolent government was paying for it, and caring for the disadvantaged (taxpayers burden). Fish bites.

Of course once the hook was set, the government came to those doctors and said, Hey, you are ripping off the taxpayers. You must charge Medicare patients and non-Medicare patients the same price. So doctors, being no dummies, chose to raise the fees of their non-Medicare patients, rather than take less of what the government was offering to pay for Medicare patient visitors. Reel em in.

Now doctors, being prominent members of the community, and actually relating to their patients a patient was seen by the doctor in those days, not a screener a doctor would actually know many of their patients by name. That is how things were just some thirty years ago. That made doctors a powerful force in the community. And a force that threatened government, by creating a natural rallying point for the peasants.

So we have equalized visitation fees for patients, can equalizing all charges for all patients be far behind? Physicians frequently gave discounts to patients who could not afford to pay for the doctors services. So the doctor discounted or even eliminated his charges to his patient who could not otherwise afford them. Government then stepped in, and demanded Medicare patients be charged the same rate as the lowest rate offered by a physician to a non-Medicare patient. Meanwhile the costs of Medicare start to rise exorbitantly. In part this was because physicians were having to direct poorer patients into the Medicare programs, if they wished to continue being his (or any physicians) patient. That fish is getting tired, and is reeling in just fine now. Government was also offering physicians a

carrot, in higher procedure fee rates than they normally charged.

Of course doctors were having to fill out more paperwork. A lot more paperwork. Even medical insurance companies were increasing the physician paperwork load. With the increasing costs to the non-Medicare patient, the cessation of non-government sponsored treatment for those who cannot afford medical care, and the need to see more patients per day to cover increased costs, and spend less time with each patient to allow time to complete paperwork, came the tarnishing of the medical community. And a new phenomenon. Suits being brought by lawyers against doctors, and juries bringing in ever increasing monetary damages against doctors and hospitals. Malpractice insurance went from a few dollars a year, to thousands of dollars a year (and it is now thousands of dollars a month or even completely unavailable), forcing doctors into coops with each other either in hospitals or a newly emerging phenomenon, HMOs, who supplied the group malpractice insurance.

Sooner or later the pot of gold starts to look empty, and the supply starts to dwindle. Cost containment of the health care industry became the mantra. Government was there, both as the cause of the escalating costs and ready to supply the cure: Let government completely take over health care as the only way to assure health care for everyone ... even though everyone had access to health care long before the government got involved.

Soon you had doctors being told they were overcharging for procedures, and told what the proper charge was. Those doctors who decided this was not enough compensation for any given procedure stopped doing the procedure, forcing patients to seek elsewhere for a physician who would do a procedure, and adding to those physicians patient loads since the option of raising price to meet the demand was not available.

You also had doctors being charged with performing unnecessary procedures. Someone with a high school education was questioning your doctors medical treatment of you! And denying that treatment.

Physicians were going to jail for supposedly gouging the health care system. Oh that fish might renew the fight when it finally gets dragged from the water. But with the preparation and years of practice by the angler, it is not likely the fish is going to escape its fate.

HMOs now come with a negotiated

low visitation fee. The result, every hypochondriac with the sniffles is waiting ahead of you in the waiting room to see the doctor because it doesn't cost anything. Government has mandated that emergency rooms must see any patient that comes to their doorway, even if there is no emergency. The result is the poor now go to the ER for their sniffles and when you show up there are usually over 300 people waiting in any ER waiting room. And even with triage (unless you are dying) it is a long wait. When you are an ER staff, who wants to see people who really don't need your services when so many people do? The result is poor staff morale and rapid burn-out. Care to venture why there is a nursing shortage?

It takes a great deal of time to become educated as a physician. You will graduate from medical school more than \$150,000 in educational debt. You will spend the next three to six years in an overworked, 60-70 hour weeks, high stress, low paying internship. Afterwards, as you approach a third of a century old, you can finally be on your own. But you cannot afford to be on your own. So you join an HMO as a junior staff member, where you are evaluated by how many patients you see a day, and spending less than 5 minutes with each patient. Those patients all blend together. Considering the debt, length of educational commitment (lifetime) and relatively poor pay compared to putting that much effort into say business, it is surprising that seats in medical schools are still filled. When the government soon starts to regulate how much a physician can earn, the seats will be open. Good luck finding a doctor. I have no idea where Canadians will go to find their health care. I am guessing Americans will have to travel to Mexico. Hell, if I was a physician right now I would be setting up a clinic along the Mexican border.

Government right now has positioned itself to take over health care. They are just waiting for a crisis they have created

to come to the rescue (a plan they repeat over and over to acquire power suckers!!!!). They now have complete, unfettered access to all of your medical records, conveniently standardized for ready database searching by government fiat. They propose requiring you to carry these records on a national ID card. [A ration card.] They have even gone so far as to propose ending your life if you are no longer of benefit to the government, and possess an chronic infirmity that costs too much to keep you alive. [Putting you to sleep like an old dog.] Tasty fish, I can't wait to get them into the oven.

Now of course drugs are too high in price, so we have to regulate the pharmaceutical industry to contain costs. The government cannot allow citizens to freely purchase their drugs on the open market, around the world, at a market price though the Internet. [Oh, with restrictions maybe they will allow you to purchase some drugs from Canada.] But the government can declare that a drug company is making too much profit on a particular drug, and regulate the price. Which of course means you won't be seeing much of that particular drug circulating ... I hope you don't need it.

Government uses every program it institutes to usurp threats to itself, steal, lie and kill. As inexpensively as possible to itself. Medicare was no exception. And like any good program, it has expanded and spun off siblings (Medicaid, Access, etc.). Both major Parties are proud of their health care takeover. Neither can expand the program fast enough. Dinner is served.

Powell E. Gammill, is an Arizona native, and a molecular biologist who specializes in clinical virology. He has not been a very good libertarian having worked for the government. He was the founder and head of the (AZ) State Public Health Laboratory's Bioterrorism Detection and Epidemic Response program. He is currently the Laboratory Manager for a successful private Arizona Biotechnology company.

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GOT
LIBERTY?

We Don't Need No Stinkin Zealous Advocacy

by *Marc J. Victor*

Back in the good old days when Americans were interested in freedom, criminal defense attorneys had an ethical duty to zealously advocate for their clients. The concept being that an adversarial system of justice was more likely to produce just results than an inquisitorial system of justice. However, the Arizona Supreme Court recently decided that the age old duty of zealous advocacy is no longer appropriate. Attorneys in Arizona now have no such ethical duty.

I interpret this change to mean the government has determined it is no longer in the government's interest for criminal defense attorneys to be zealous when they fight the government. No kidding. One could expect nothing different so long as the government supplies all the judges, the prosecutors and strictly regulates all criminal defense attorneys. Imagine a situation where one baseball team unilaterally approves and pays the umpires and determines who plays for the other

team. You wouldn't be shocked when they picked players for the other team who agreed not to play too zealously.

I recently tried a case for a client who was charged with a crime arising out of a bar room brawl. I suspected the arresting police officer wouldn't be able to identify my client at the trial but would nonetheless testify under oath that he could. On the day of trial, I asked my client to sit in the back row of the courtroom while his uninvolved friend accompanied me at the defense table. I informed the court my client was present in the courtroom and we were ready for trial.

As expected, the officer testified under oath that the friend sitting next to me was the man he arrested. He was absolutely certain. I immediately informed the court that I did not agree the officer had identified my client. After the government rested its case, the friend testified revealing his identity. After some expected legal wrangling, the judge entered a judg-

ment of acquittal. My client was thrilled. The aggravated prosecutor stormed out of the courtroom.

Months later, I learned the prosecutor's supervisor filed a bar complaint against me alleging I misled the court and an investigation was commencing. My state granted privilege to enter into voluntary contracts with adults for representation was at stake. To his credit, the elected judge backed me and signed an affidavit stating I did nothing to mislead him. This did not deter the bar or the prosecutor who was determined to punish me for misleading the judge who says he was not misled. Indeed, the prosecutor argued to the bar that the judge's opinion about not being misled was not relevant. After months of haggling, the state bar grudgingly admitted I had not violated any ethical duties and the complaint against me was dismissed.

Despite the fact that we all know what happened that day in court, no complaint

was ever filed against the government police officer. No government investigation was commenced against the government police officer. None was expected. Government courts have ruled that government police officers are permitted to lie to citizens all they want. They often do. However, government prosecutors often charge citizens with crimes if a citizen lies to a government police officer.

So long as the government administers the criminal justice system, only the government will be protected. Whenever you find yourself in a government court fighting the government, remember that the government doesn't want your attorney to have an ethical obligation to zealously represent you. They want your quick plea of guilty and the accompanying fines and various sanctions which now include your DNA in many cases. Although it may seem unfair, I'm sure the government set up this system with only our protection in mind.

A Passion for Truth

by *Ernest Hancock*

In 1 Samuel 8:10-18, God, through Samuel, warns the Israelites against the idea of a king. When they persist, despite God's warning, God tells Samuel to go "make them a king." This is clear evidence that God sanctions both free will and its consequences.

Reread God's warning against imposing government on yourself: "And you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, and the Lord will not hear you in that day." I remember God's warnings whenever I am presented with a new law that would use the force of a secular government to enforce compliance with what is sold as "God's will". I find it distasteful for my children to be taught to abandon faith in the power of Christ's message to alter another's self-destructive behavior, and to embrace government's forced social and economic engineering.

My wife and I took our four teenagers (two boys, two girls) to experience "The

Passion of the Christ." What I hoped Mel Gibson would do, he did, and did well. I remember having read an American Medical Association account of Roman crucifixions from a doctor's perspective and was prepared for the intense visual (and emotional) impact. And I found it hypocritical for film critics who applauded "Saving Private Ryan" for its realistic portrayal of war, to then decry the violence done to Jesus in Gibson's film.

There was no overt attempt to promote a belief, or to explain the meaning behind the life of Jesus. The movie filled the void left by other film makers who were too fearful to even attempt depicting the final hours of Christ's life as recorded. The movie doesn't delve into the accuracy, authorship or meaning of the Gospels -- or the evils of the Roman Empire; it merely presents an accurate visual account of the process of crucifixion as it was recorded, and as it has been taught for almost 2,000 years.

Saying "Jesus is Lord" meant saying that the Romans and the Temple rulers were not. And it is this challenge, to the collective authority of men, that has made those of faith a constant threat to those who would lay claim to your life -- and all that it has or will produce. Individuals who answer to a higher authority are very dangerous when forced to choose between service to their God (conscience) or the Church or the State. Jesus was dangerous to the false gods of earthly institutions, and God used their fear and brutality against Jesus as a very effective method to spread a message that included tolerance, forgiveness, faith and freedom.

As we take the time to discuss the use of the power of government to protect the rights endowed to us by our Creator, I hope that we are very mindful of our individual obligation to not allow that power to be used to violate those rights by the infamous "they". "There are those who wish to be left alone and there are those that will not leave them alone". "They," in this case, are those who will not leave you alone. I choose to peacefully promote answering to a higher authority.

Often here in America we have been more fortunate than in other parts of the

world, due to our cultural support of freedom through our traditional institutions. Sadly, that is changing, and danger is on the horizon. There is no virtue in forced compliance, and Jesus taught us not to seek Caesar's enforcement of God's laws. He used witness, testimony, example, parable and compassion to bring about a voluntary change.

Instead of wasting time putting faith in the collective force of fallible men, Jesus demonstrated the power of faith in God's word, while showing each of us that we are not worthy to cast the first stone. I would argue that it is weakness to empower others to force compliance with the laws of men, or God, in our name. I think we know what Jesus would do.

And if you don't ... well, the book is always better than the movie.

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Medical MJ - step forward or two steps back (or both)?

by *Aaron J. Biterman*

I don't know why libertarians persist in promoting "medical marijuana." I fell into the trap for a little while, but have since woken up. I hope my fellow libertarians will wake up soon, before it's too late.

Libertarians of all stripes should unite against what is commonly called "medical" marijuana, the concept that marijuana is a pain reliever for certain human beings and must therefore be sanctioned by the state through public law.

Do Libertarians support more state control of private behavior, and, if they don't, why, then, would many libertarians insist upon supporting "medical" marijuana? By medicalizing marijuana, the state is entrusting physicians to handle individuals' personal medical choices by their standards, mandates, and guidelines.

In the Eighteenth Century, socially deviant behavior was medicalized. Those who masturbated or engaged in sodomy against state sanction were locked up. Medical marijuana through the harm reduction movement will be no different.

Under harm reduction proposals, any number of bad behaviors should be regarded as public health problems requiring medical treatment. Good-faithed libertarians cannot endorse harm reduction because it deprives people of their liberty based upon value-judgments, not based upon concrete harms. Likewise, involuntary commitment of non-violent persons to psychiatric institutions for "treatment" is equally unacceptable on pure libertarian grounds.

The problem isn't just giving the state increased power to regulate who can and cannot have marijuana for "medical" purposes. Just as problematic is giving physicians the power to dictate whether or not we are worthy of the "medicine" they call marijuana.

Who will profit when the state takes control of "medical" marijuana? Not only will it be the state, but it will also be the very physicians who make the diagnosis. Even though they claim they're motivated by compassion, doctors, treatment center builders, and politicians are all economically addicted to medicalization efforts.

Good-faithed libertarians must be wary of their call for "compassion." Doctors are not policeman and should never be trusted as such.

Harm reduction, an alternative social policy oriented towards tolerance and social integration with regards to drug users, is another movement libertarians must be wary of. The "right to treatment" model arrived in the 1960s and forms the basis of the harm reduction movement.

Modern medical marijuana pushers belong to the harm reduction movement, the primary drug reform movement pushing for more state control of private behavior -- including more state intervention and abdication of personal rights, including the right to be left alone.

Implicit in the harm reduction movement's call for control of private behavior is the move to challenge the normalcy of drug use. As libertarians, we understand that a drug is just a chemical.

Harm reductionists don't, though. Unfortunately, the harm reduction movement questions the very sanity of individuals engaging in behavior that they consider abnormal. They then propose "treatment" to help individuals engaging in the behavior they deem problematic.

The "medical" marijuana movement, spawned by the harm reduction movement, is exactly that: A movement to treat individuals against their will by those who

stand to profit the most (physicians).

Genuine compassion is a system whereby individuals who seek help can do so on their own terms. Alcoholics with problems can seek out help voluntarily at Alcoholics Anonymous. The same should be true for those with drug abuse problems.

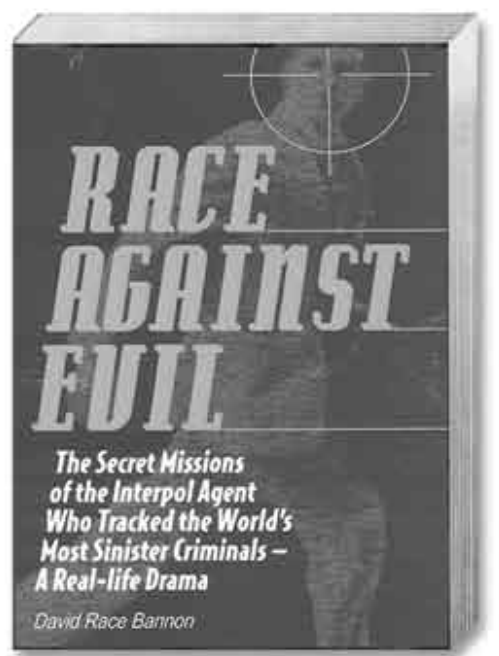
Libertarians should advocate legalizing all drugs without exception or excuse.



“Never soft-pedal the truth. It’s seldom self-evident and almost never sells itself, because there’s less sales resistance to a glib and comforting lie.”

L. Neil Smith

Interpol’s Secret Army ... by Chiu Hse Yu, Ph.D. and Jason Putman continued



Kendall, who retired in 2000 – accelerated Bugarin’s initiative: “If we waited until the laws were adopted, we would wait a long, long time. Unless we have the courage to step outside the usual run of the mill responses we will not achieve anything.” Interpol’s illicit ties were confirmed when mafia boss Bill Bonanno blandly wrote, “We had contacts in Interpol.”

The United States has expressed reservations about Interpol, the world’s second largest international alliance after the United Nations. In Steinberg v. Interpol (1981) the District of Columbia federal appellate court found that “Interpol appears to occupy a rather ambiguous and shadowy existence in this country. It claims not to exist in the United States, yet it disseminates information here, maintains close liaison with United States law enforcement authorities and...defames American citizens in the Unites States as well as elsewhere.” The court took particular exception to an Interpol memorandum dated 6 June 1979, from Director John E. Ingersoll to John Warner, Chief, Strategic Intelligence Office: “The Secretariat consists of international police officers who have given up their allegiance to their individual countries for the term assigned to Interpol.” The organization’s Constitution and General Regulations went a step further, requiring that officers “shall neither solicit nor accept instructions from any government or authority outside the Organization.”

When President Reagan signed Executive Order 12425 in 1983, giving Interpol diplomatic status and “complete immunity from prosecution in the United States,” international agencies roared. The Department of Justice condemned “the secretive nature of Interpol,” finding that “the development

of Interpol into a worldwide agency has not been accompanied by a concurrent expansion of Interpol’s accountability.” In 1989, the European Council significantly curtailed Interpol funding and condemned the organization’s practices: “Interpol was above the laws of any land and not legally accountable for its acts.” A weakened Interpol had its funding curtailed – and just in time.

SECRET ARMY

Eleven years earlier, in 1978, Commissioner Jacques Defferre was hunting child sex slavers from his small Paris office, a mandate covered under Interpol’s loosely worded charter: “To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.” He watched helplessly as 900,000 children were smuggled across international borders for the sex trade each year, including nearly 10% of the missing children from the United States. Coercing, kidnapping or buying children from willing parents, smugglers used drugs and torture to force obedience, then entered them into the world market through countries where child prostitution was legal, such as Thailand, Pakistan or Romania. The resulting pornography could earn billions in profits, well worth the initial investment cost of about \$30,000 per child, some as young as 18 months old. Confronted by child slavers and terrorists that had no army, no fixed assets and no clearly defined territory, Defferre convinced his superiors that Interpol should match criminals and terrorists for wiliness, adaptability and ruthlessness. In 1979, the sub-directorate Archangel was created and given an elite training facility in La Verpillere, just outside what would become Interpol’s new world headquarters in Lyon. Archangel’s mission: Identify child sex slavers and eliminate them.

As the head of Archangel, Defferre (known as “Archie” to insiders) recruited agents from all walks of life: ex-military, law officers – anyone whose profile resisted conventional thinking. Even criminals. The French spymaster recruited Bannon as an Interpol undercover operative.

ACROSS THE GLOBE

Though tiny by Pentagon standards, Interpol assassination teams were planted in Asia, Europe and even the United States. Archangel cleaners worked solo or in teams of three or four. In a given month one operative might have no assignments or as many as ten.

These tactics didn’t impress everyone. “All of the Interpol guys were always working undercover, but we prefer a standup fight,” said Captain Henri Wolper with the French counter-terrorist Directorate of Territorial Security (DST). Wolper has known Bannon for years but hates Interpol’s secret army. “They got nothing you can’t find in any special forces team across the world, only without authority. So the terrorist sell kiddie porn? Leave them to the pros. Vigilantism is a crime, no matter what the justification.”

Local law enforcement cooperation and subsequent Interpol supervision of the investigation by “washer/dryers” helped keep many of the assignments out of the public eye. “It’s like the Firm,” said Geoffrey Ries, referring to the British Secret Intelligence Service (SIS), known as MI6. A twenty-year veteran of the Firm, Ries reminisces about “dozens of missions” with Defferre and his Archangels. “It’s in everyone’s interest to keep the secret; whether for national security or disdain for the system’s ability to queer it. Once it’s out, the lawyers always take over, reducing all of life and death, passion, greed, courage, lust and glory to the desiccated vernacular of their trade.”

Lee Hyung-jin, a 20-year veteran of the South Korean secret service, has no patience with these clandestine activities. “These people operated every day around the world,” he said. “They were inserted quickly, clandestinely, without our knowledge or with it, working for or against us. It was a short trip and a direct line – from the Nazi origins of an organization that reshaped itself to fit any master – to the vigilantism of the 1980s.” Lee may have a point: Defferre estimated that each of his operatives accounted for “three digits” worth of arrests or assassinations until the group was officially disbanded in 1991.

In August-September 1998, New Orleans police officer Thomas Parker worked on an Interpol-organized raid of Internet child pornographers called The Wonderland Club. “I met two of these Interpol guys, okay?” Parker said. “One was obviously an ex-con, the other some sort of psychologist doctor. We figured maybe they were CIA or whatever when it all went down.” Parker and the Interpol team stormed a room of kidnappers. Four of the seven pornographers were killed. Parker’s “ex-con” was Bannon, on one of his last assignments. “These guys, they don’t take no prisoners,” Parker told us. “They ain’t legit cops, they’re killers.” And work-

ing for Interpol full-time had a price. The father of an 8-year-old girl that was rescued by Bannon and Parker in 1998 supported the need for Archangel, but said the work “cankers their souls.”

The cost has been high. Almost all of the original 250 cleaners are dead or missing. “They rest in the arms of Michael,” Defferre wrote in a letter dated 1996. “Only we few remain.” He was referring to a team motto that aligned assassins with Michael the Archangel’s Biblical role as a protector of children.

BETRAYAL

Interpol is not happy when one of its own talks. Michael Rose, the organization’s chief press officer, released a statement that tacitly admitted he had not read Bannon’s exposé but denied any knowledge of individuals recorded in it: “If the claims in Mr. Bannon’s book are in fact as have been reported to Interpol, they can only be seen as deceptive and irresponsible fantasy.” Last April Interpol officers were beating down the ex-agent’s door in North Carolina, demanding that he recant his tale. Warring factions within Interpol used the book as a catalyst to realign power in the organization. Even such notables as Interpol Vice President of Asia, Kim Joong Kyouon, weighed in to support Bannon’s condemnation of secret groups like Archangel, writing that the autobiography is filled with “a terrible sense of injustice and misery.”

By May Defferre and Bannon were flying to France to find a solution with U.S. intelligence officials and Interpol. Three unidentified men confronted them in Marseilles. Defferre, 67, was killed. Bannon lived to appear at the all-important meeting, but with cracked ribs and a dislocated right knee.

Today Bannon is at peace, a church-going family man who fights for awareness of child trafficking and says that he would “reserve a circle of hell for anyone who harms innocents.” In his new role as child advocate, he gives, and asks, no quarter.

Chiu Hse Yu, Ph.D. is Lecturer in Law at National University of Singapore and author of Punishment as Response to Harm (Singapore University Press, 1997).

Jason Putman is a freelance writer operating out of the southeastern United States. His book, Secret Armies: The World’s Elite Intelligence Forces, will be released in 2005.

If u cn rd ths, u cn gt a gd job.

by Mark Yannone

The World Data section of the 1996 Britannica Yearbook reveals that 24 countries in the Western Hemisphere—including Mexico—have workforce literacy rates at or above 90 percent.

Another nine New World nations have resident literacy rates over 80 percent. Only seven of the 40 nations in North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean have adult reading rates below 80 percent.

Six of the seven are very poor, disadvantaged countries: Haiti (53 percent literacy), Guatemala (56 percent), Nicaragua (66 percent), Belize (70 percent), Honduras (72 percent), and El Salvador (74 percent).

The other nation with an adult literacy rate below 80 percent has the most expensive public schools in the world—costing \$280 billion in 1995. Its citizens average 12 years of school attendance. Yes, what was once inconceivable has become our reality: Only six Western Hemisphere countries have

worse levels of educational achievement than the United States of America. The 1992 NALS test scores show that only 77 percent of Americans over 16 can read.

A casual (but sustained) attempt to teach a six-year-old to read will succeed in a few months, even if the teacher has no more qualifications than being literate. But our public schools can guarantee newborn-level illiteracy to almost a quarter of those over 16, even after many, many years of mandatory school attendance.

Some of them finally learn to read in prison. Others are content to get even in more subtle ways. They’re the incompetent aircraft mechanics, the incompetent builders, the incompetent electricians, the incompetent medical personnel, the incompetent principals, and the incompetent soldiers. You and the 77 percent can read about their fatal mistakes every day.

“Go straight to the heart of the enemy’s greatest strength. Break that and you break him. You can always mop up the flanks and stragglers later, and they may even surrender, saving you a lot of effort.”

L. Neil Smith

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The Lesser of Evils ... *by Butler Shaffer continued*

current Martinet-in-Chief. Congress need not observe the constitutional technicality of declaring wars: let the president usurp this role. Neither do constitutional “guarantees” of a “speedy and public trial” need to be adhered to if the government doesn’t want to be so burdened. The “writ of habeas corpus,” too, is just another bothersome relic standing in the way of an efficiently run police state. Comedian Jay Leno outshined most lawyers and political scientists in his assessment of the situation. Speaking of the constitution the United States was planning to impose upon the Iraqi people, Leno quipped: “let’s send them ours. It served us well for two hundred years, and we’re not using it anymore!”

For those who have not disabused themselves of the illusions of constitutional government, I hasten to point out that the erstwhile Soviet Union had a constitution, modeled upon the American form, complete with a bill of rights. It is at this point my listeners want to shift the topic to a “lesser of two evils” inquiry. I attended a conference – prior to the collapse of the Soviet Union – at which I had been making my point about the irrelevance of constitutions to

the maintenance of liberty. One man became quite angry with me, and accused me of equating the degree of liberty in America with that in the Soviet Union. “You’re saying that Americans are just as oppressed as are the citizens of Russia or Albania,” he kept shouting at me.

I was, of course, making no such comparison. When arrayed against the spectacle of such vicious regimes as Nazi Germany or Stalinist Russia, even the current Bush administration offers a freer alternative. But the “lesser of two evils” argument is like asking one to choose between lung cancer and tuberculosis, on the assumption that the latter would be preferable to the former given that more cures are available. But this is precisely the kind of intellectual trap that defenders of statism set for us, and which most of us fail to perceive. If we insist upon our liberty as an unqualified condition – instead of being content to contrast our situation with more tyrannical regimes – we would focus on the choice between lung cancer, tuberculosis, or a condition of good health.

One hears this kind of statist reasoning drooling from the lips of Bush administration defenders. Was Saddam

Hussein a tyrant? Of course he was, which was probably the Realpolitik justification for the American government having supported his regime for so many years. But so what? How does the fact that he oppressed Iraqis for decades relate to the question of whether Americans ought to tolerate expanded governmental authority over their lives?

Of course America was a freer nation than were the Soviet Union, Cuba, China, or Albania, during the Cold War years. What does this obvious fact have to do with our understanding of what it means to be free, or what conditions are necessary for the protection of our liberty? Even if America is the freest society in which to live today – in spite of the Bush-Cheney-Ashcroft-Ridge efforts to the contrary – ought that relieve us of the task of increasing our liberty by continually challenging the authority of the state? Even if we have come further than other nations along the road to a truly free society, ought we to stop along the way and admire the oppressive measures of our nation-state because, on a comparative basis, they have thus far proven less tyrannical than more vicious regimes?

If America is freer than other more

abusive regimes, that fact is not due to our ancestors having penned to parchment words with some imagined magic to restrain state power. It is due, rather, to the relatively freer states of mind and expectations of the American people. Adolph Hitler was not an aberration confined to Germany, nor was Joseph Stalin a freak of Slavic history. Each was an opportunist who, like politicians in any part of the world – America included – aspired to the exercise of as much power over people as their victims were willing to concede.

It is no more meaningful for men and women who would be free to content themselves with making choices between one brand of oppression over another than it was for earlier generations of Europeans to choose between the Leftist politics of Stalin and the Rightist politics of Hitler. Freedom has its roots in an awareness that each one of us has the power to either accept or reject the limitations others would impose upon our lives. Men and women who understand this basic truth do not, I assure you, busy themselves with measuring the differences between kings and dictators, or senators and commissars.

Computer Privacy

by Stu Krone

The world around us is changing. There is nothing new about that. The rate of change is increasing. The technology that is available to us is changing faster than almost anything else around us. This has ramifications both positive and negative. As I have said before, technology isn’t evil. Technology is neutral. Government on the other hand is evil. The government is using technology today to restrict our freedom in ways that would not have been imaginable before.

It is important to stay up to date on the technology that the government is using to control our freedoms and also on the technology that we can use to preserve them. Loss of freedom occurs

in several steps. The first step is the unique identification of the subjects. The second step is the monitoring of the subjects. The third step is the restriction of action of the subjects.

If you have a driver’s license, a social security card, a file at the IRS and other government contacts, they know who you are. There is actually very little you can do today in America to avoid having a number stamped on you. Technology has made tattooing of the forearm obsolete, but you certainly have a number stamped on you.

Let’s talk about restricting your actions. Once the government knows who you are and what you are doing, it is relatively easy for the government

to stop you from doing anything they don’t want. Want to build a machine gun? We know who you are, we know you bought a Sten gun kit and we know you bought hollow steel tubing. It’s pretty easy to put one and one together and come up with crushed civil rights. Once the government knows everything about you and what you are doing, civil rights becomes a difficult situation at best.

So, where on the path to slavery can this trip be derailed? It’s almost impossible to stop the government from giving you a number. Once they know everything about you, they can control you. Obviously the only way to maintain your freedom is to maintain your privacy. Privacy is an extremely important component of freedom and one which when given up results in a great loss of freedom.

The government in conjunction with the major retailers is putting a lot of time and effort into monitoring all of your actions. I’ve gone over different ways that you are monitored and I’ve even made predictions for the future. Most of these predictions have already come to pass. What can you do to minimize others intrusion into your privacy? Fortunately there are a number of things you can do.

Pay cash whenever possible. One of the ways you are tracked most extensively is through your credit and debit card purchases. If you want to have a shopper loyalty or affinity card, consider using someone else’s name and address. Your credit card records don’t just show what you’ve purchased; it shows where you bought it and exactly when. Your travel and spending habits are there for the entire world to see.

The latest development in the retail world is the implementation of RFIDs. This stands for Radio Frequency Identification. This is a small, usually cylindrical chip as small as a grain of rice or a bit larger. It is increasingly being placed in consumer products. There are new developments in semiconductor ink that are making RFIDs cheaper and harder to spot. The sticker on your computer or book can be, and frequently is an RFID. This chip will lay dormant forever and requires no power to function. It is read by a radio scanner.

Don’t buy merchandise that is tagged with RFIDs. If you aren’t given a choice, buy the product and smash or remove the RFIDs. If your clothing has RFIDs it would be a simple matter to track your whereabouts simply by placing scanners around the city. There is already a government project underway to place RFIDs in automobiles. Let me make this perfectly clear for you. There is absolutely no reason to put an RFID chip in an automobile other than tracking its’ whereabouts.

In the early 1900’s Germany conducted a census of their citizens. It was this census along with IBM’s computers that made the Holocaust brutally efficient. The next time someone hands you a form, think about what information you are putting down and what it could be used for.

The government has already taken away huge portions of our privacy. You can’t open a bank account without giving your life history. You can’t check into a hotel or motel without showing ID. You can’t fly without showing ID. It will soon be impossible to get medical care without showing ID. Fight for whatever you have left.

“Understand from the minute the fight begins that you’re going to take damage. Accept it. (You’ll always suffer more from the idiots and cowards on your own side than from any enemy.) Keep your overall goal in mind above all. Those who swerve to avoid a few cuts and bruises defeat themselves.”


L. Neil Smith

Rational Review







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Oh Yeah, I’m an Expert on Airport Security

by Jim Sharpe - Morning Host - Newsradio 620 KTAR, Phoenix

I’m at the airport every other week-end.

Not by choice. Oh God, not by choice.

Thanks to my divorce, I walk through security at least four times a month: when I take my kids to the gate Friday afternoon and when I meet them there Sunday evening. Two times a weekend, twice a month I have to take my shoes off.

I wish I could take my legs off. If I go through Sky Harbor’s Terminal 4 Security Checkpoint B, there’s often a pat-down because I’ve got a plate in my left leg. For some reason the machines at Checkpoint C don’t seem to care. So much for consistency.

One thing is consistent at Phoenix’s airport. The Burger King past security is bad. Really bad. It has almost made me swear off fast food. Now that I see that on paper and realize how much I weigh, I suppose that might be a good thing.

But seriously, it’s gross. It’s one of those self-service deals where you can’t have it your way. The food is prepared, wrapped and then put on top of a warming shelf until you come by and grab it. You take it to the cashier, who charges you the “special” price. You know, the price a monopoly on government property can charge. No 99 cent Whoppers here.

As far as weapons go, though, the Whopper is very affordable. I know it’s \$3.09 (plus tax), but after sitting there with all the other pathetic Whoppers on that heating shelf for untold hours, it’s capable of penetrating the cockpit door of anything Boeing can make.

That flame-broiled battering ram is scary. But not as scary as the state of airport security.

“Pretty scary,” is the term U.S. Representative John Mica of Florida used in response to two new studies of how good the TSA is doing. He’s chairman

of the House aviation subcommittee.

After spending billions of dollars and adding more than 50,000 federal employees, the TSA is an “unresponsive inflexible bureaucracy” (shocking!) according to a General Accounting Office study.

Another member of the committee, Oregon Rep. Peter DeFazio, said that screening hasn’t improved over the last 17 years. Back then, screeners didn’t detect 20 percent of the dangerous objects that undercover agents carried through checkpoints, according to the GAO report.

We have to rely on Rep. DeFazio’s word (a big stretch - he’s a politician) because Homeland Security Department Inspector General Clark Kent Ervin wouldn’t give specific results of his report – they were classified. I’m sure for national security reasons. Or is it for someone’s job security reasons?

More than 100 airports are consid-

ering a November 19 deadline to opt out of the federal security program. The problem is, the studies show that the few private screeners allowed since 9/11 did a poor job, too. In all fairness, though, Congress did order that the privately employed screeners be hired, trained, paid and tested to TSA standards. Now I understand why Congress is the opposite of Progress.

What I wish these airports could opt out of are the federal laws concerning the carrying of weapons on board aircraft - because I’d carry one. A Kel-Tec .32 with frangible ammunition. Those are the bullets that become dust when they strike anything harder than they are. Like cockpit doors. But not terrorist’s chests.

It’s the only way we’ll ever be safe. Whoppers aren’t going to cut it. The government can’t do it. September 11, 2001, proved that.

The TSA is just upholding tradition.

They Pry Them from Our Cold Dead Fingers

by Sharon Harris - The Advocates for Self-Government

Once upon a time, in a land not so far away...

It’s a lively community forum. A nice young woman named Jan Smith from Freeland (a tiny country tucked away somewhere in Western Europe) is telling us about how Freeland has solved many of the problems our local politicians have been struggling with. Some think our city council members could learn from Freeland’s example.

“One of the problems we’ve dealt with quite successfully is the gun issue,” Ms. Smith says. “Now remember, we’re a free country like yours – we believe in individual liberty and responsibility. We certainly allow citizens to own and use firearms.

“However, we noticed that this creates several problems. Many people just don’t take proper care of their guns. They don’t know how to clean them, how to store them, how to make sure they are safe. Other people modify their guns in ways that are illegal or not in the best interests of the public. This poses a danger not only to themselves, but to the community.

“Some of our cleverest leaders solved that. First, we passed a law requiring that everyone care for their guns and store them properly. We instituted a massive educational campaign to stress the importance of this.

“That helped, but of course there were still people who didn’t comply.

“The way we ultimately solved the problem was for the government to provide citizens with the service of taking care of their guns for them.

“We built huge buildings in every community and hired firearm experts to work there. We passed a new law requiring everyone to drop off their guns at the building closest to them every morning, and then pick them up in the early evening. Some complained this was inconvenient for them, so we created a system to pick the guns up at each home every morning and return them to the owners in the evenings.

“Having the guns all day gives our government-trained firearms experts a chance to modify those that don’t comply with gun regulations, in addition to making sure they are cleaned and stored safely.

“It’s a win-win. Folks really appreciate this service!

“A great side effect that we didn’t anticipate was that it gives more freedom to everyone! No longer do citizens worry about what might happen to their guns if they left them at home during the day, so they can go to work or run

their errands in peace.

“They know their guns are safe and well-cared-for. And of course they appreciate not having to do the hard work of taking care of their guns themselves.”

Councilman Brown interrupts with a question: “Have you encountered any problems with this system?”

“Not really.” Ms. Smith pauses. “Well, some people complain that the government experts don’t do a good job. Some say that their guns don’t work as well as they used to, or that they prefer to take care of them themselves, for whatever reasons.

“No problem. To appease these complainers, we allow them to take their guns to private, licensed companies that provide the same service. Of course, not many people take advantage of these private services, because after all they have to PAY for them, whereas the tax-funded government service is free.

Councilman Jones: “Sounds great! This is something I think we should consider here.”

I look around at the mostly conservative and libertarian crowd – who, predictably go ballistic.

“You’ve got to be kidding!” says a man on the front row. “You’ll never see that here!” says another.

“You’ll take my guns when you pry them from my cold dead fingers!” shouts a man in the back row, and soon the crowd is on its feet – echoing his statement and booing the politicians.

Whew! It’s clear we won’t see this sort of thing in my community any time soon.

As I nod in agreement with the crowd, I notice an image out of the corner of my eye – a bright yellow school bus is passing by the window.

And suddenly I realize that just about everyone in the room allows government workers to come every day and take away something – something far more precious than any piece of metal.

That big yellow school bus takes our children to huge government buildings where most of their waking hours are spent. Where each day begins with an invocation of loyalty to the state. Where their most treasured spiritual values and symbols are banished. Where peer pressure replaces family values. Where the truly important questions of life can’t be asked, much less answered. Where pop culture surpasses the classics. Where socialism is taught – both in theory and by example. Where conformity and indoctrination are far more important

than thinking or reading...

Libertarians and most conservatives boldly and nobly take a stand for our right to keep and bear arms. Not so we can go duck hunting, but so we can defend ourselves and our families from invasion. And so we can, if necessary, defend our liberty from the possibility of a tyrannical state.

But what if the tyranny we fear comes to pass – grown and nurtured in

our very homes?

Until we have equal passion for defending our children from the invasion of their MINDS – unless we take a bold and noble stand for the HYPER-LINK “<http://www.sepschool.org/>” \t “_blank” separation of SCHOOL and state – we will continue to allow our children to be taken from our warm, loving arms.

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“Know, down to the last cell in your body, that the other guy started it. He’s the one who put things in an ethical context where considerations like decency and mercy have no referent. The less pity moves you now, the sooner you can go back to being a nice guy.”

L. Neil Smith

You can't hide your lying eyes

by *Vin Suprynowicz*

I see where the people of Haiti finally got sick of defrocked collectivist priest and all-around “necklace” killer Jean-Bertrand Aristide, took up arms, and kicked him out.

So what are U.S. forces doing there now? About 1,800 of our guys have been sent in to -- in the words of Associated Press reporter Paisley Dodds -- “rid the nation of guns.”

Hey, good plan. In the great tradition of George Washington, Francis Marion, and young Jim Monroe, the Haitian people just used firearms to throw out a vicious tyrant, and the immediate goal of Big White Brother up north is to “rebuild a shattered police force and disarm militants who began the insurgency.”

And to add insult to injury, where back in 1994 when the freedom-loving Bill Clinton sent in 20,000 troops to (start ital)install(end ital) Aristide the murderous dictator, U.S. troops at least offered to (start ital)buy(end ital) these weapons of freedom in order to better enslave the natives, this time (Mr. Dodds reports) “Haitians ... are being asked to give up their guns with little or no incentive and in a very insecure environment.”

The only good news? U.S. forces, Mr. Dodds reports, have so far “recovered two shotguns. Their Chilean counterparts have confiscated three weapons.”

Do you suppose maybe those black fellows aren't so stupid, after all?

We are not at war with anyone in Haiti. Washington City has no constitutional authorization whatever to spend our tax dollars sending troops into Haiti to disarm “uppity Negroes” who dared fight to win their own freedom. Also for the record, there were no organized police departments in *this*

country until the 1850s.

That's right: From 1783 until at least 1850 America was a nation of “armed insurgent militants” with no official government cops.

And how do you think the people of the proud, young, free United States of America would have reacted if some foreign army had arrived here in 1783, with the declared goal of “ridding the nation of the guns” that had just been used to win America's freedom and independence, the better to “rebuild a shattered police force and disarm militants who began the insurgency”?

Why does our Second Amendment say a well-armed citizen militia is necessary? That's right, it's “necessary to the security of a free state.”

Could it be the folks in Washington don't *want* black Haiti to be truly “free”? (Washington certainly doesn't want them to prosper, or our government would allow U.S. consumers to buy the Haitians' cheaper sugar.)

After all, as early as 1785, our own Southern states were passing laws that “No slaves shall keep any arms whatever, nor pass, unless with written orders from his master or employer, or in his company, with arms from one place to another.”

Whereas, in his proposed constitution for the state of Virginia, Thomas Jefferson wrote: “No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms. The strongest reason for the people to retain their right to keep and bear arms is as a last resort to protect themselves against tyranny in government.”

Notice the definitive difference between “free men” ... and “slaves”?

In 1788, debating the ratification of the U.S. Constitution, a great patriot and friend of Washington named

George Mason stood in Richmond and recalled: “When the resolution of enslaving America was formed in Great Britain, the British Parliament was advised by an artful man, who was Governor of Pennsylvania, to disarm the people; that it was the best and most effectual way to enslave them; but that they should do it not openly, but weaken them, and let them sink gradually. ... I ask, who are the Militia? They consist now of the whole people, except a few public officers.” And it was no less a freedom-fighter than Mohandas Gandhi who said, in 1927: “Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of its arms as the blackest.”

And *what* is it we're now doing in Haiti?

But this conspiracy to attack and remove the very tools of freedom is not isolated. There isn't even any Second Amendment in the new Iraqi constitution, according to World Net Daily.

In a March 10 piece bearing the sub-headline “Colin Powell hails prohibition on arms while emphasizing ‘liberty,’” WND correspondent Ron Strom writes: “Iraq's new interim constitution sounds many of the same themes as the U.S. Constitution in guaranteeing freedom of the people -- with one stark difference: There is no right to keep and bear arms in the new charter.

The document does indeed promise a whole bunch of freedoms. (So did the Soviet Constitution.) But when it comes to civilian ownership of military-style arms -- which our founding fathers warned us was the last and only real safeguard of the rest of our liberties against government encroachment?

The only reference to individual

ownership of arms is in Article

17: “It shall not be permitted to possess, bear, buy, or sell arms except on licensure issued in accordance with the law.”

And Article 27 further addresses the formation of militias: “Armed forces and militias not under the command structure of the Iraqi Transitional Government are prohibited, except as provided by federal law.”

America's leading gun-rights organization quickly registered strong opposition to this nonsense.

“It's a very big mistake,” said Erich Pratt, director of communications for Gun Owners of America. “What an interesting contrast to what our Founding Fathers thought.”

“The right of people to keep and bear arms was the best check to tyranny” that America's Founding Fathers put into place, Pratt told WND.

None of this should come as any surprise, of course, Aaron Zelman's Milwaukee-based Jews for the Preservation of Firearms Ownership recently noticed our own Naturalization folks in Washington City now require incoming citizens to study a booklet which claims our Second Amendment guarantees the right to bear arms “subject to certain reasonable restrictions.” When JPFO contacted our lying federal masters to ask where in our founding documents they found this “subject to certain reasonable restrictions” language ... they received no answer

Vin Suprynowicz is assistant editorial page editor of the daily Las Vegas Review-Journal and author of the books “*Send in the Waco Killers*” and “*The Ballad of Carl Drega*.” For information on his books, his monthly newsletter, or receiving his columns via e-mail, write Privacy Alert, 3172 N. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 343, Las Vegas, Nev. 89108, U.S.A.; or visit Web sites www.privacyalert.us or www.LibertyBookShop.us.

Polygamy

by *John Crockett*

On the border between Arizona and Utah, lies a sleepy little community called Colorado City (in Arizona) and Hildale (in Utah). About 10,000 people live there. Each day, they go to work or school, or stay home. A small percentage of them are on government assistance of one form or another.

The commercial part of town includes a restaurant, motel, and a small convenience store with a few gas pumps out front. People who live here drive 20 miles north to Hurricane, Utah for things like groceries and furniture.

There's really nothing extraordinary here that would attract anyone's attention except the spectacular views. Well, that and one other thing: Here, you'll find households with more than one woman who calls the man of the house “husband”. It is this distinction that has attracted attention to the people who live here (and their antecedents) for over 100 years.

Colorado City has been in the news lately, as the governors and attorneys-general of both Arizona and Utah have vowed to “deal with the polygamy problem.” On February 7th and 8th Ernest Hancock and I drove up to Colorado City/Hildale to see for ourselves what the “polygamy problem” was, and to look at the situation through libertarian eyes.

Of course, seeing through “libertarian eyes,” we concentrated on initiation of force or fraud against the people who were living in this lifestyle. Were 12 year old girls being forced by their fathers into marriages to older men? Were residents being coerced by the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (FLDS) into giving up

property or other consideration? Were the women in the polygamist households slave laborers forced to be human incubators for crazed baby-making husbands? We were worried that abusive individual's subjugation of individual liberties would be used to justify state intervention against an entire religion. And we were interested in what might be the real reason.

While we were in town we spoke mainly with “apostates.” Apostates are those individuals who have rejected even some small part of church teaching. Simply speaking to us would make any member of the FLDS an apostate, but these people had been branded apostate before we came along. It would be safe to say that if there were horror stories to be told...stories of child or spousal abuse, stories of dirty old men trading teenaged girls as sex objects, stories of men falling out of favor with church hierarchy and being dragged from their homes in the middle of the night...these would be the people who would tell those stories to the outside world.

Instead, as we spoke to Ross Chatwin we became more and more interested in the story from his wife's perspective. From Laurie Chatwin's perspective, the reason they had become disenchanted and finally apostate was because they had been unable to garner favor with church hierarchy and be granted a second wife! In the months prior to the trip, we had been repeatedly informed by every local news outlet, including the supposedly independent New Times that the problem was that women were being forced into unwanted plural marriages. First wives were being forced to accept second, third, etc. wives, while women who were not yet married were being forced into unwanted first marriages. Now we were hearing from one of the women who would be most profoundly affected by such a system, that the exact opposite was true. She and

her husband wanted a second wife, but the church would not give one to them! We asked Mrs. Chatwin if she had been forced to marry Ross. “No,” she replied, “as a young girl, I looked forward to the day I would be sealed to a man.”

We asked Laurie if her feelings were shared by other young women of the community. She told us that it was very uncommon to find young women who did not want to be given to a man and sealed in marriage when they reached marrying age (usually from 18 to 20, sometimes at 17, rarely prior to that). In fact, Laurie and Ross both told us, that it is considered wicked for men to seek marriage to a woman. Instead, the women are encouraged to “shop around” looking for husbands/households that they would consider compatible with their own skills and interests, and then to request to be placed in that house and sealed to that man in marriage.

Wow! So much for the polygamy problem. To what, then, do the governors and attorneys-general refer when they hold press conferences and boldly tell us that they intend to “crack down” on the polygamists? What will they crack down on? A woman's right to choose a husband in Colorado City?

In the FLDS belief system, a man who does not have at least 3 wives cannot enter into the highest level of heaven. Many people are horrified by this view of the nature and process of salvation. And, more significantly, they are unwilling to allow others to practice religion in ways that diverge too substantially from their own. They therefore choose to initiate force, through the agency of government, to limit the practice of beliefs they consider uncomfortable or distasteful.

What if these forces are allowed to prevail? Shortly after the slaughter of the Branch Davidians near Waco, Texas, an interesting bumper sticker appeared. It read, “Is your church BATF

approved?” The inference, that someday your church may have to pass some sort of government test for “rightness,” is obvious. Apparently, the FLDS does not hold government approval for their belief system. They have quietly tried to avoid such government scrutiny for over 100 years. Apparently, the first amendment's establishment clause did not go far enough.

The founding fathers held the right to practice religion in one's own way, so dear, that when they began to write the Bill of Rights, the most important individual liberty they intended to establish protection for, was the right to express one's self in speech and faith as one felt led by one's own conscience, without interference from fellow citizens or the government. I have no doubt that at the first hint of trouble in Colorado City/Hildale, those same founders, were they alive today, would assemble, armed, at the borders of that community to defend those people from the excesses of a government that has lost touch with its roots. And the real reason? As always, it's about money.

“Remain the judge of your own actions. Never surrender that position by default. When the enemy screams “Foul!” the loudest, you know you're doing him the most damage. Those who help him scream are also the enemy.”

L. Neil Smith



Be Ashamed ... Be Very Ashamed

by L. Neil Smith - Exclusive to The Western Libertarian Alliance

In case you have been hermetically sealed in a cave somewhere – or simply been limited exclusively to watching and listening to the whorishly “embedded” American “news” media – you may not know that the United States government has been up to some astonishingly ugly business at its military base in Guantanamo, Cuba, and in other places.

Prosecuting its undeclared and illegal war in Afghanistan, Iraq, and elsewhere, it is holding several hundred individuals captive at that base, denying them due process on the ludicrous and self-serving grounds that they are not in the United States and, therefore, the protections afforded by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights don’t apply.

Nor, insists the government, do its victims deserve status under international law as prisoners of war, because they are “illegal combatants”, whatever that bit of Orwellian babble means. Some have been held there without charges or legal representation for over two years.

When I first heard, a couple of weeks ago, that the military was going to release five of its concentration camp inmates – all of those to be released happened to be British subjects -- I made two predictions.

One of them was that some kind of political or economic pressure had been brought to bear to force their release. Attitudes, ambitions, and activities of the current American government that have culminated in the brutal invasion, occupation, and oppression of two feeble Third World countries -- and demonstrably predate the events of September 11, 2001 -- are, to the immense embarrassment of the sycophantic Tony Blair regime, extremely unpopular in Great Britain, which recently witnessed the largest anti-war, anti-government demonstrations in its history.

My other prediction was that, once these released prisoners began telling us

what was going on in Cuba, what had been done to them, and is still being done to others, it would be the beginning of the end to the Guantanamo imprisonments, and possibly to the Bush Administration, itself.

Just what is being done to the Guantanamo prisoners? According to Independent Media-TV and other independent sources, Jamal Al-Harith, a 37-year-old web page designer and father of three from Manchester -- the first British national released -- says they are kept in small wire cages, exposed to the hot sun and cold rain, as well as to rats, snakes, insects, and scorpions. They are subject to frequent brutal beatings for minor offenses, torture, and systematic humiliation. He says that especially devout younger Muslims who have never seen an “unveiled” woman before are forced to watch female strippers fondle themselves, and that prisoners are told “we will kill your family and you.”

Bound tightly until their circulation is cut off, and chained to a concrete floor, prisoners are interrogated for as long as 15 hours at a time by CIA and British intelligence. They are drugged -- on one occasion, Al-Harith refused an unidentified injection and was punished for it by being beaten twice by the military police “Extreme Reaction Force”, using fists, clubs, feet, and knives, while the jackbooted thugs, in full regalia, shouted “Comply! Comply! Do not resist! Do not resist!”

They are starved when it suits their captors -- who make them watch other prisoners eat. They are fed rations ten years out of date.

“Recreation meant your legs were untied and you walked up and down a strip of gravel. They actually said that ‘You have no rights here.’

After a while, we stopped asking for human rights -- we wanted animal rights.”

I’m not going further with this right now. It is as painful and sickening to write

as it was painful and sickening to read -- in fact,

I’ve been putting it off for days. If you want to see more, just put “Guantanamo”+“torture” in your search engine. I must admit that, as long as I’ve lived, and as cynical as I’ve grown about government and the corruptibility of individuals when they are given life-and-death power over others, these stories disheartened me and made me sick for days.

Regarding my first prediction, we may never know why the prisoners of Guantanamo were let go. I don’t believe this government would ever have released them, after holding and abusing them in clear violation of the Constitution and international rules of civilized behavior, if it hadn’t somehow been compelled to. Nor are we offered a clue about who it was who put the pressure on. Looking at coverage on the Web and the Internet, groups like the UN and Amnesty International seem oddly helpless to deal with these travesties. Here in the United States, they represent perhaps the most effectively spiked news story in history.

And the Bush Administration is in court right now, trying to keep it that way by demanding the absolute power to conceal what it is doing.

Be that as it may, every individual connected with these outrages -- from the muscle at the bottom doing the dirty work, all the way up to George Bush -- should be removed from office and tried for war crimes. Members of the “Extreme Reaction Force” should be publicly hanged by the neck until dead to emphasize the fact, established at Nuremberg after World War Two, that there are some orders -- and certain animalistic impulses -- that must never be obeyed, on pain of death.

But even more repulsive than what’s happening at Guantanamo (and ultimately a worse sign for our civilization) are “patriots” on the Internet -- the same kind

of low, slimy, crawling, cowardly “good Germans” and authoritarian lickspittles who pretended not to smell the stinking chimneys of Buchenwald or Belsen, or to notice the fine gray ash of human flesh settling on their doorsteps -- who not only take the side of the jackbooted thugs, but make fun of their helpless victims.

You know who you are.

Make no mistake, it is perfectly valid to ask is why we should believe Jamal Al-Harith, as other British releasees are beginning to corroborate him. I believe them because, after 57 years of being alive and looking around, they sound credible. More important, what they say was done to them -- is still being done to many others -- is entirely consistent with what I’ve watched this government do over those 57 years.

I believe them because, like you, I saw what happened at Waco and Ruby Ridge, and because I eventually learned the truth about the Tonkin Gulf “Incident”, Operation Keelhaul, and the murder of Gordon Kahl.

I believe because, from Paleolithic times, this is what government has been all about. It’s all that government is about, or ever will be.

Three-time Prometheus Award-winner L. Neil Smith is the author of 23 books, including *The American Zone*, *Forge of Elders*, *Pallas*, *The Probability Broach*, *Hope* (with Aaron Zelman), and his collection of articles and speeches, *Lever Action*, all of which may be purchased through his website “The Webley Page” at <http://www.lneilsmith.com>.

Autographed copies may be had from the author at lnail@lneilsmith.com. Neil is presently at work on *Ceres* and *Ares*, two sequels to his 1993 novel, *Pallas*, a censored and electronically published version of his 1984 novel, *Tom Paine Maru*, and on *Roswell, Texas*, with Rex F. “Baloo” May. A 180-page fullcolor

National Platform Debacle

by David Euchner

I originally wrote an article called “A Tale of Two Platform Committees” which was going to appear in this space. That article was published on May 9 in Lee Wrights’ e-zine, www.libertyforall.net.

However, because there is a substantial need to update, The Western Libertarian allowed me to rewrite my work and fill in the readers with the latest information I have about the LPUS platform committee.

In the last few months, I have served on two platform committees; those of the Arizona LP and the LPUS. I got on to the AZLP platform committee because I “give a damn”; AZLP allows anyone to be on a committee so long as someone is interested.

I was nominated by George Squyres and then appointed by the LNC to fill a vacancy as an alternate on the LPUS platform committee in February 2004. I promised George and Michael Dixon that, if appointed, I would open the floodgates and the world would know everything that I know and think. They told me that this was what they wanted.

On my first day as a member of the PlatComm, I created a Yahoogroup for unmoderated discussion of the platform and what was going to be done with it in Atlanta at the national convention. I encouraged all of my fellow PlatComm members to join this list, and several did.

And of course, several did not. You cannot force people to be open and honest.

Shortly after I joined the committee, I forced the issue of whether there was any intent to gut the platform and the statement of principles. The rest of the committee was content to say “It won’t happen so don’t worry about it.”

It’s my nature to push the issue in order to expose the ugly truth. Sure enough, one member of the committee, Sam Goldstein of Indiana, intended to build support quietly for total deletion of the platform and replacing it with some wishy-washy statement that says libertarians kinda sorta believe in individual rights.

I sent e-mails far and wide to make sure everyone knew about this. Sam made a feeble attempt to deny it, but his e-mails prove his intent. And it looks like the “kill the platform” movement is dead for now. So blowing the whistle served a very valuable purpose in this case.

Nevertheless, I got many e-mails from other committee members (some of whom are also LNC members) asking me to “cool it” and to not make such big waves. But that’s what I do – I tell the truth, no matter who wants the truth suppressed. If the truth hurts, the problem is not with me, but with the people who “can’t handle the truth.”

Presently, there is a critical problem with the functioning of the PlatComm. The LPUS bylaws require that there be only 20 members on the committee. But rather than find a way to include more people in discussions, the PlatComm leadership has limited the ability of “outsiders” (meaning, non-committee members) to participate.

At this time, let me say that I think the reformat project is a good idea. As all persuasive writing, the structure is but a tool to convey the ideas you choose. The reformat itself is no more capable of gutting the substance of the platform than a gun is capable of committing murder.

I see no substantial evidence that the PlatComm wants to gut the substance of the platform. In fact, on many of the planks, not a single word is being

changed. Only the sentences are being re-organized. New language is offered only where there is an obvious void in the existing plank (particularly where a principle is not stated).

But the PlatComm is malfunctioning due to a forced hierarchy.

It was decided (by whom? I don’t know) that 61 planks would be assigned 3 planks each to 20 people. There was no Plan B in place for when half the committee members didn’t do their homework. Nor was there Plan C for when individuals produced poor results.

As of April 30, all 61 planks had a suggested reformat and new language proposal. But only 11 out of 20 committee members voted, so at this time the number of planks that have majority support of the committee is ZERO.

Therefore, a project which should have been completed last October according to a 2002 convention resolution remains incomplete to this day (May 13).

This is embarrassing to the committee’s leadership who have created these rules. Or I should say that it SHOULD be embarrassing.

I have offered short-term fixes to this problem that could get an acceptable product distributed through e-mail lists within days. My offerings fell upon deaf ears. No one seems to be interested in getting this done before the convention.

In return for offering solutions to the administrative problems of the committee, some have publicly called me dictatorial. That is fine; the truth reveals quite the opposite to be the case.

I am very sorry to have to report this, but it is the truth. The PlatComm is dysfunctional to the point that the delegates will have no idea in advance what is to be proposed at the convention. The PlatComm will finalize its work on May 25-26 and send it to the printer overnight for the delegates to review on May 27 and vote on May 28-29.

What’s more, there is a possibility that the PlatComm will decide (over my objection) to roll up changes on all 61 planks in one up-or-down vote. This is ridiculous.

For these reasons and many others, I am not interested in serving on the LPUS Platform Committee in the future.



- ✓ In 1994, as the twice-elected Sheriff of Graham County, Arizona, Richard Mack challenged the “Brady Bill” in court... and won
- ✓ In 2002, Richard Mack joined with Nevadans to urge voters to pass Question 9 to legalize marijuana... and lost.
- ✓ In 2004, Utah’s incumbent governor overturned an initiative approved by 69% of Utah voters in 2000 to curb asset forfeiture. The Democratic challenger is a former federal prosecutor.
- ✓ On March 11, 2004, Richard Mack filed his declaration of candidacy and is running for Governor of Utah as a Libertarian.

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The Adventures of Jonathan Gullible: A Free Market Odyssey

by Ken Schoolland

EPILOGUE

Mr. Gullible, a wise man many years my senior, gave me far more than a story of adventure. During many months of discourse he provided me with an outline of his intriguing philosophy of life. Over the years it guided him to fruitful activity in his homeland. That is yet another story. Nevertheless, I leave you with words from the conclusion of his journal.

“My philosophy is based on the principle of self-ownership. You own your life. To deny this is to imply that another person has a higher claim on your life than you do. No other person, or group of persons, owns your life nor do you own the lives of others.

“You exist in time: future, present, and past. This is manifest in life, liberty, and the product of your life and liberty. The exercise of choices over life and liberty is your prosperity. To lose your life is to lose your future. To lose your liberty is to lose your present. And to lose the product of your life and liberty is to lose the portion of your past that produced it.

“A product of your life and liberty is your property. Property is the fruit of your labor, the product of your time, energy, and talents. It is that part of nature that you turn to valuable use. And it is the property of others that is given to you by voluntary exchange and mu-

tual consent. Two people who exchange property voluntarily are both better off or they wouldn't do it. Only they may rightfully make that decision for themselves.

“At times some people use force or fraud to take from others without willful, voluntary consent. Normally, the initiation of force to take life is murder, to take liberty is slavery, and to take property is theft. It is the same whether these actions are done by one person acting alone, by the many acting against a few, or even by officials with fine hats and titles.

“You have the right to protect your own life, liberty, and justly acquired property from the forceful aggression of others. So you may rightfully ask others to help protect you. But you do not have a right to initiate force against the life, liberty, or property of others. Thus, you have no right to designate some person to initiate force against others on your behalf.

“You have a right to seek leaders for yourself, but you have no right to impose rulers on others. No matter how officials are selected, they are only human beings and they have no rights or claims that are higher than those of any other human beings. Regardless of the imaginative labels for their behavior or the numbers of people encouraging them, officials have no right to murder,

to enslave, or to steal. You cannot give them any rights that you do not have yourself.

“Since you own your life, you are responsible for your life. You do not rent your life from others who demand your obedience. Nor are you a slave to others who demand your sacrifice. You choose your own goals based on your own values. Success and failure are both the necessary incentives to learn and to grow. Your action on behalf of others, or their action on behalf of you, is only virtuous when it is derived from voluntary, mutual consent. For virtue can only exist when there is free choice.

“This is the basis of a truly free society. It is not only the most practical and humanitarian foundation for human action, it is also the most ethical.

“Problems that arise from the initiation of force by government have a solution. The solution is for people of the world to stop asking officials to initiate force on their behalf. Evil does not arise only from evil people, but also from good people who tolerate the initiation of force as a means to their own ends. In this manner, good people have empowered evil throughout history.

“Having confidence in a free society is to focus on the process of discovery in the marketplace of values rather than to focus on some imposed vision or goal. Using governmental force to impose a

“Know, otherhand-
wise, that the easiest,
most humiliating path
to defeat is thinking
that to beat the enemy
you must be like him.
Avoid the temptation
to set your values aside
“for the duration.”
What’s the point of
fighting if you give up
what you’re fighting
for? If remaining
consistent with your
values leads to defeat,
you chose the wrong
values to begin with.”

L. Neil Smith

vision on others is intellectual sloth and typically results in unintended, perverse consequences. Achieving the free society requires courage to think, to talk, and to act—especially when it is easier to do nothing.”

What’s Libertarian on Abortion?

by Doris Gordon

“What!” some people say. “How can a libertarian be against abortion? Are you Catholic?” I’m a Jewish atheist, and I used to be an abortion-choicer. When I changed sides, I founded Libertarians for Life (LFL). Many libertarians are pro-life.

A popular abortion-choice slogan is: “Keep the government out of abortion.” It sounds libertarian, but it hides error and ambiguity. It raises many “ifs” that need to be debated. Is abortion homicide (the killing of one human being, person, by another), or is it at worst a victimless-crime that presents no problem for unalienable rights?

Rights

In abortion, rights {is} the issue. Pro-lifers argue that a person with rights begin when a human being’s life begins -- be it at fertilization, cloning, or by any other means.

Abortion is unjust homicide. Abortion choicers say no; laws against abortion enslave women.

What’s libertarian turns on whether abortion is homicide or not. If abortion didn’t victimize anyone, if it were not a deliberate, direct attack against innocent persons, that would end the debate, at least among libertarians. {If.}

But even given that abortion is homicide, what about “the woman’s right to control her own body?” If this right could trump her child’s right not to be killed, then however regrettable, abortion would be permissible, at least according to libertarian principles. {If.}

Some abortion-choicers are willing to concede (for discussion’s sake) that the preborn are persons with the right to life. But, they argue, we may not force people to be Good Samaritans. Parents do not owe their child support and protection from harm; they may withhold sustenance from their children. Children may be ejected from the womb or abandoned afterwards.

However, most libertarians concede parental obligation for born children (until they are able to fend for themselves).

But if there were no parental obligation, then a live “removal” or “eviction” would be permissible. {If.}

Government

The {ambiguity} in “Keep the government out of abortion” is that government cannot really “keep out” of the issue.

When people disagree about whether something is a “right,” government cannot step aside and let them fight it out in the streets. Government must act as if it is a right (and protect it), or act as if it is not (and try to stop or punish it). No one {really} wants governments to stay on the sidelines. If they did, they might use the slogan consistently. {If.}

Doubt

Even with the best of intentions, it will not be easy to reach a consensus on abortion. There’s biology: When does the new human individual begin? There’s philosophy: Is the new individual a person with rights? Are there limits to our right to control our own bodies? (The distinction between one’s fist and another’s nose comes to mind.) And what about parental obligation?

As with parental obligation, sometimes there are areas of agreement. Some abortion choicers deny personhood but concede the biology: A Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice pamphlet said, “Logically, for instance, no one can deny the continuum from fertilization to maturity and adulthood.” A former president of Planned Parenthood, the late Alan F. Guttmacher, M.D., wrote that we each begin life “as an embryo within the body of the female” (Life in the Making, 1933).

But full debate will take time. What should lawmakers and judges do in the

meantime?

For rights, tossing a coin will not do. The reasonable course is time-honored: Weigh the possible injuries imposed by a wrong decision either way -- then choose to avoid the worst. For the pregnant woman, it is a partial and temporary loss of liberty; for her fetus, it is the total and permanent loss of both life and liberty.

The answer is obvious. The law should give the benefit of the doubt to life.

Abortion-choice or pro-life, intellectually, both sides have the burden of proof. Mere assertions are insufficient; one must also provide substantial arguments that explain and defend them. Examine the abortion-choice arguments. To see how Libertarians for Life stands up, examine the articles on its website, www.L4L.org. If you find abortion-choice arguments that you think overcome LFL’s case, you may send them to me at libertarian@erols.com.

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“Measuring Individual Freedom”

by **Howard Blitz** - *The Freedom Library, Inc.*

Everywhere you turn people are constantly saying how free we Americans are. We have our Constitution and Declaration of Independence and in this country anyone can go where they want, be what they want to be, and say and do what they want.

Real freedom, though, is defined by the absence of government in one's life. To say that one is free, one must truly be able to go anywhere they wish, be anything they want to be, and do and say anything they choose so long as one does not restrict others through the use of force in doing the same and without fear of government force being perpetrated on them.

Today, though, we are permitted, licensed, monitored, taxed, authorized, and for all intents and purposes, treated as subjects by a government out of control and out of its power hungry head. Yes, one is free as long as one bows to the king first. As long as one has a permit from the government, one is allowed by the government to drive, so long as that vehicle is licensed by the government, the taxes are paid to the government, an insurance

policy is paid for required by the government, one's seat belt is fastened, and the vehicle has been inspected and emissions tested all required by the government.

If one wants to be a pilot one must first get permission from the government by getting licensed. To become an attorney, a hairstylist, an insurance agent, a real estate broker, a doctor, a teacher, an accountant, or a member of any number of other occupations, one must get licensed and certified by the government. To build a house, to add a room to one's home, or to start a new business requires government permission.

To get a job requires government identification and to hire someone requires the same government identification. As a matter of fact the government dictates the minimum pay that must be agreed upon by both the employer and employee. Even to get married requires a permit from the government.

Government requires all children to attend its schools, and a group of individuals must get permission from the government if it wants to be a 501 (c) (3)

non-profit organization.

It is now a criminal activity for political action committees to criticize candidates within sixty days of an election thanks to the campaign finance reform bill. Mentioning the constitution in some courts may turn a few heads and cause repercussions.

However, the ultimate control government has over its subjects is the requirement it puts on all individuals to keep track of all of their spending and income so that it can decide how much an individual gets to keep of what he earns. This directly impacts where individuals can go, what they can be, and what they can say and do. Of course, since the government grants its subjects privileges, it also can and does take those privileges away.

Yes, individual liberty might exist to a greater extent in America than in other parts of the world, but American freedom is not measured against the freedom others around the world possess. American freedom today is measured against the individual liberty of our ancestors. Just like an individual should never compare

himself with others since there will always be individuals better and worse than oneself. One always compares himself of prior years to see how he has progressed or regressed.

The founders of the United States of America did not give their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to obtain liberty for themselves and us in order that we could be permitted, licensed, monitored, taxed, authorized and treated as subjects by an out of control government. The United States Constitution was written to restrict the powerful force of government from interfering with an individual's life.

True freedom means taking responsibility for one's own actions. If we truly desire liberty and freedom, we must stop the insane activity of demanding government to control human activity or we will surely find ourselves in tyranny.

Be sure to listen to KJOK Radio AM 1400 every Tuesday morning at 7:50 for “*On The Edge With Howie Blitz*” and “*A Liberty Moment*”.

Howard J. Blitz
President
The Freedom Library, Inc.
March 2, 2004

It's About Trust

by **Dean Pleasant**

So this September 13th is the day that the 1994 Assault Weapon and High Capacity Magazine Ban expires. Or at least it is supposed to. A lot can happen between now and then. But a certain sub-set of people in the gun culture are looking to that date like some await Christmas. For others, it's not unlike when they couldn't wait to turn 16 and get that drivers' license. It will be fun. It's been too long coming. And there just ain't no good reason why it wouldn't happen.

Well, there are some people in America who feel that blood will run in the streets and kids will start stuffing MAC-10s in their school book bags. But they say that about the repeal of every or any gun regulation. What makes this one so different, is that it was the high point for gun prohibitionists in recent decades, and seeing it end is just so damned depressing for them, I am sure.

If you haven't been following the gun control war since before the 90's, understand that for decades their cry was that in the interest of curbing violent crime (and NOT rights of the citizen, they routinely claimed), they wished only to regulate handguns. The rationale was because statistics showed that violent criminals preferred handguns. Well, that was true. Handguns are concealable and easily portable, so it just stood to reason they would be used more than, say, fine engraved fowling pieces. And for a time, the foes of the easily acquired and owned handgun had some successes; most notably the complete ban of them in D.C. But after many years of the debate, even the most average voter was beginning to see there was at least some legitimate utility in handgun access and ownership, and successes for the prohibitionists became fewer and fewer.

So in 1988, Josh Sugarman of the Violence Policy Center began to rally the prohibitionist forces to a more vulnerable sub-set of firearms. “Assault weapons”. He sought to capitalize on the general public's lack of knowledge about different gun designs. He speculated (quite accurately, unfortunately) that when shown a semi-automatic UZI and fully-automatic UZI side by side, most people would see no real difference between them. Assault weapons would be a target of opportunity.

But what happened to the desire to eliminate guns used by criminals? Well, facts are but a mere annoyance to some people. And so it was to the prohibitionists. Statistics clearly showed that these types of guns were rarely used in violent crime, but prohibitionists and their allies that worked in law enforcement mastered

the art of “spin”, pretending that criminals were abandoning their traditional 2nd hand .38 revolvers and .22 pistols and slinging AK-47s. It was interesting during this time to watch the statistics begin to slowly change AFTER assault weapons became a common household topic. Even criminals watch the news. And soon there was a sort of “weapon-envy” going on in gangland culture. Greater percentages of criminals started to actually acquire these weapons BECAUSE of the prohibitionists making them aware that they had been missing the firepower bandwagon!

For the citizen gun-owner, these days were dark. Prices on the existing stocks of pre-ban assault weapons put them out of reach for the average Joe. One wondered if there was anyone other than drug dealers and elitists left who could afford them. But eventually, good old American ingenuity found some limited ways around parts of the ban. In fact, today you can buy a semi-auto AK-47 that looks not much different from that which was available in 1988, functions exactly the same, is just as lethal, and at about the same price. There are other more desirable weapon systems that have not been able to remain available. But the ban has not been the complete ban that it promoters had intended or desired.

So therefore, gun prohibitionists say that the ban should be extended because in it's imperfect form it requires more time for the effects to come to fruition, and that, after all, some weapons are still available, so what are we whining about? Supporters of armed freedom will say (accurately) that the ban has had no effect on crime, and since AK-47s are still available for under \$300, what will it matter if it has a bayonet or flash suppressor or folding stock?

But to Libertarian members of the gun culture, this is all sort of beside the point. To us the issue of the sunset of the 1994 ban is not about whether next year we can buy a new folding stock AK-47 for \$300 instead of an old one for \$1000. It's not about a whacko shooting up a bunch of minority children in a California schoolyard. It's not about some sort of demented affirmation of personal machismo because we own a weapon with capacity for mayhem.

It's about trust.

I forget to which founding father the quote is attributed, but “the genius of the Second Amendment is that it not necessary until it no longer applies.” In other words, ownership of weapons capable of

use against the government are not necessary until such time as the government attempts to take them. Now it might well be that the great and vast majority of those who seek to disarm the American population only desire to do so out of the most benign and benevolent intentions. For the greater good. But history shows that only armed people have ever remained free, and that disarmed people were almost always (eventually) victimized. Am I to trust we shall be so different?

Well I do not trust that human nature has changed all that much. I do not trust that there shall never be another population to fall prey to mass self-delusion about their leader. I do not trust that there will never be another wolf among us disguised as a human. I do not trust that it can't happen here. And I do not trust that my rights will be recognized just because I say “please”. (Even now, that is not the case.) The gun prohibitionists say that we can trust them, and that we can trust in our government and police. Yet, at the same time, by imposing this ban in the first place (and other gun regulation schemes), our government says it does not trust us.

It's about trust.

When the country was founded, the deadliest implement of war fielded by an individual soldier anywhere in the world was the very handmade rifle owned by nearly every colonial. It was actually superior to the longarms fielded by the British against us. To think of this in modern terms, imagine 9 in 10 of all American adult males owning the latest issue infantry arm such as the U.S. military's recently adopted M-8 assault rifle. And that would not be a true comparison because that would merely place the citizen on par with the military, when for our first 125 years citizens were on the whole BETTER ARMED than our soldiers. It was about that time that the government began to distrust its people. We could not be trusted to own gold. We could not be trusted to manage our own money, so the government began to hold some back. We couldn't be trusted with our own bodies, so we were told what

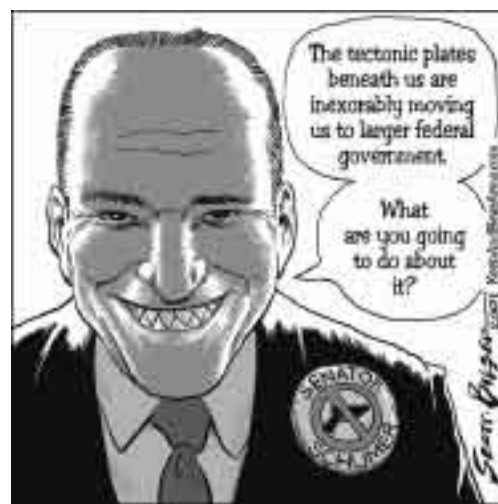
we could put in them. We couldn't be trusted with our children's education, so we were told others would teach them. We couldn't be trusted to be charitable, so the government was charitable for us (and had to hold back even more of our money). No, the government definitely does NOT trust you or I.

And nothing illustrates the point more distinctly that the issue of guns.

If the 1994 Assault Weapon Ban actually sunsets this year, our government will have extended a gesture of trust. They will send a message that you, the gun-owning citizen, are not some enemy to be feared. In these times of war, one would hope the government has finally learned how to identify who is an enemy. But if it does not sunset; if it is somehow extended at the last minute; the government is plainly telling you that you cannot be trusted. You are a potential threat in need of supervision, akin to that of a child.

It's about trust.

Or is it about control?



“Never aim at anything but total achievement of your goal: the utter capitulation of the enemy. Every effort involves inertia and mechanical losses, so adopting any lesser objective means partial defeat. Total victory means you don't have to fight the same fight again tomorrow.”

L. Neil Smith





The Libertarian Party is an Oxymoron

by Powell E. Gammill

Writing in *Liberty*, (*The Libertarian Party Gets Real*, March, 2004) George Squyres wants you to know he is a pragmatic politician. Greg Newburn (*Time to Get Real*, January 2004) can not stand being laughed at, or ridiculed by people for taking the uncomfortable stance of defending liberty. He too wishes the Libertarian Party (LP) to become more like the Republicrats and Democicans. Slowly you are getting your wish, and the LP gets less votes and less respect every compromising year.

The philosophy of libertarianism (or classical liberalism) is one of mind-ing ones own business, and requiring everyone else to do the same. Self responsibility and self reliance are expected. To borrow and expand on a competing publications motto (*Reason Magazine*): Free bodies, free minds and free markets. Note the word free. Meaning unrestrained, unfettered, and unbound. In the libertarian sense you are free to pursue your desires and accumulate property, up to the point where your pursuit collides with one or more people. Then your interactions must be of a non-coercive, mutually consenting exchange. That is it in a nutshell. Simple, yes?

Note the word Party, at the beginning of my writing. Politically it stands for a free association of people, who have organized for the expressed purpose of stealing property and restricting everyones freedom in the United States (and even the world) through the use of violence. All while delivering the illusion of *due process*. Violent theft is what democracy and every other form of government is all about, plain and simple.

That is what the Republican Party has always been about. That is what the Democratic Party has always been about. Therefore, from a philosophical point of view a Libertarian Party is a nonsensical organization at best, and at worst is the height of hypocrisy when it is organized to actually acquire political power.

Humans like to associate with other humans. It is in our genes. We form all kinds of associations from group health insurance, to the P.T.A. and the local lapidary club. But in my experience, in every collective of humans, once it reaches a certain critical mass, inevitably a few dedicated assholes rise to the top, and are voluntarily given the reins by the lazy and gullible membership to proceed to make the association more important than the reason for the association itself. Once this happens, you may see some partly successful attempts to get an association back on course by a few purists, but in the end shit just keeps on floating to the top.

So what does this mean for libertarians and the Libertarian Party? Do you really think a libertarian would choose to establish the national headquarters of the Libertarian Party at the Watergate in Washington D.C.? But pragmatic Libertarians did.

Do you really think a libertarian

would be constantly scheming how to cajole money from other libertarians to support a full time national Libertarian Party staff? But pragmatic Libertarians do.

Do you really believe a libertarian would have trouble defending the Libertarian Partys own freedom based platform in debate? But a Libertarian pragmatist would.

Do you actually believe that people who for centuries, and especially the last fifty years, have successfully organized to loot your property and restrict your peaceful pursuits, are really going to give up and start living off their own labors because you go to the voting booth to change things? But pragmatic Libertarians want to join the pillagers. How... pragmatic. It is just not libertarian. If voting could make a difference, it would be illegal.

So what good is the Libertarian Party? Well it has given an education to millions of Americans who now have a fair idea of what is libertarian and what is not. It has done this in part by creating an unswerving national platform that unashamedly demanded freedom for all individuals, and the right for those individuals to keep all of the fruits of their labors. It does not matter whether those exposed to libertarianism agreed with the philosophy, only that they came away understanding what is and is not libertarian.

But more importantly, the Libertarian Party movement created multiple focal points throughout the nation of home-grown activists who created local rallying points for those disillusioned by the Repulicrats or Democicans. But those who joined believing they could take back their freedom at the ballot box should not be lied to with false promises of political power.

If a Libertarian candidate is to ever have political influence it will be in the perception that the 5% or so of the votes they manage to draw in a three way race, has handed the election to the other major Party. This is the L-factor. This is what the two major Partys fear: If their candidate loses there will be less division of the spoils for them. And if a Libertarian candidate runs as a faithful, staunch idealistic libertarian who is willing to defend the Platform, then both the major Party loser and the winner will be more likely to at least give lip service to the libertarian ideas in the next race, rather than lose votes. Maybe not much of a victory, but your freedom can not be purchased at the ballot box.

The Libertarian Party will never be a majority Party because the philosophy of the Party diametrically opposes the control victory represents. And to change the philosophy by altering the platform defeats the very reason for the Libertarian Party... and turns it into the desired reality of the pragmatists: A Party just like the Republicans and Democrats have. A Party just like the one you left.

All you have to ask yourself is one

simple question: Do you own yourself? If you answer no, then who is your owner? If you answer yes, then what gives anyone, even a majority of voters or their elected whores, the right to restrict your pursuit of happiness through mutually agreed interactions, and to confiscate any of the fruit of your labor? Why do you pay taxes? Why do you pay speeding tickets? Why do you register for Selective Service? Why do you have a drivers license? Why do you have license plates on your car? Why do you have a Social Security number? Why do you leave your gun at home? You may feel uncomfortable with some of these questions, but once again ask yourself: Do you own yourself, yes or no? Are you responsible for yourself? There is no in-between. No subjectivity. You are free, or you are owned.

Once you embrace libertarian philosophy it inevitable leads well past limited government to anarchy (i.e., the absence of government). It has to. Because no government has ever kept its promise to protect private property, or protect individual freedom. Government can not. It is violent force. It will always be used by those that rise within its organization to repress, enslave and acquire. It is the nature of government, and the few who find it easier to rule than to produce.

You just have to learn to have faith in people. Ninety-seven percent of individuals are good, honest, hard working people who want to be left alone, and who will leave you alone if you give them the chance. One percent are taken care of by the contributions of Samuel Colt. The other two percent are low lifes, who will take note of the abrupt end of the one percent and learn to tread carefully. A well armed society is a polite society and a free one. If you want to know how you are ever going to get your freedom back reread the last few sentences. It sure is not going to be by voting.

The Libertarian Party National CONvention will be in Atlanta this year in May. I am told that in the beginnings when the purists were in charge, it used to be a disorganized hoot. People dressed up in freedom based costumes, had real convention floor fights, and intimate groups going off to talk activist strategy, sedition and treason over intoxicants and good food. In short, fun and not your mothers political Party. But some twenty years ago the pragmatists began to take over the LP. And now they would like to blame their long list of failures and corruption of the Libertarian Party on radical fringe purists instead of the mainstream, big tent (meaning We do not care what you believe, we just want your vote!) pragmatists who have mislead and looted libertarians for two decades now.

Well I look forward to meeting all you pragmatists at the CONvention. Even though I did not attend, I am humbly told I was nominated by the Arizona convention this year to be a member of the Arizona delegation in Atlanta. And this gives me hope, as there is still a Party in Arizona where you can get nominated, or even elected to Party office, by your absence or even by leaving the room at the wrong time to relieve your bladder. Oh, and while you are visiting the Arizona delegation, be sure to say hello to the pragmatic George Squyres as well.

Powell E. Gammill, is an Arizona native, and a molecular biologist who specializes in clinical virology. He has not been a very good libertarian having worked for the government. He was the founder and head of the (AZ) State Public Health Laboratory's Bioterrorism Detection and Epidemic Response program. He is currently the Laboratory Manager for a successful private Arizona Biotechnology company.



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Gorilla Politics

by *Kent Van Cleave*

BACK DURING THE 1960s, politics took a decidedly interesting turn. Instead of the prim and proper norms that governed politics since WWII, starkly confrontational tactics – what you might call “guerrilla politics” – were employed to protest both civil rights violations and the Vietnam police action. The government really didn’t know how to handle this, and for the most part resorted to nice, comfortably familiar repression. Once four students were killed by National Guardsmen at Kent State University, however, government had to pull in its claws a bit. Now, nearly 40 years later, the claws are back out – bigger and sharper than ever before. It’s probably not the time to resurrect guerrilla politics, but something new and fresh is needed to shake the American people from their somnolent complacency.

My recommendation is gorilla politics – outrageous yet humorous tactics that command attention, engage the public, seduce the media, and embarrass the hell out of politicians and bureaucrats. Because of the humor, it will be extra difficult for the state to indulge its reflex to repress. You just can’t put your shiny government jackboot on the neck of a harmless, fun-loving protestor without looking really bad in the eyes of the public.

Folks in the Western Libertarian Alliance (WLA) have been doing this for years (especially in Arizona), with more than encouraging results. Here are a few examples.

Congress was contemplating its latest new gun control measure, and Republicans were showing no spine at all. Enter the mysterious and pseudonymous Miguel Cartero, founder of the Gun Owners Liberation Front (GOLF), with a plan: take

two golf balls, put them in a little flesh-colored bag made from pantyhose, and send the little package to the Congresscritter most in need of a pair of ... well, you know. The word spread, and much fun was had by all. But this type of stunt was impossible to assess for effectiveness, because it wasn’t public enough.

Soon, though, Senator John Kyl (R-AZ) came down on the wrong side of assault weapons legislation ... unfortunately for him, right in the middle of his reelection campaign. Overnight, a crop of signs saying, “Sieg Kyl!” sprouted up all over Phoenix, strategically placed next to Kyl’s own campaign signs. Now, that was public! And cryptic, too ... causing much talk about what the signs might mean (requiring thought about all of Kyl’s political failings).

But this crew wasn’t finished with the poor senator. In a few days, in public restrooms all around Phoenix, urinals were sporting what could only be called “targets,” imprinted with Kyl’s face and the motto, “Sink Kyl!” When one showed up at a local Republicanoid talk radio station men’s room, a host obligingly ranted for minutes on end about the stunt, thus sharing the joke with thousands of listeners.

When the power brokers in Phoenix rammed through taxpayer funding for Bank One Ballpark, a plan was hatched to take advantage of the notoriously superstitious nature of baseball players. A pagan who agreed to play the part of a witch was all set to show up outside the stadium and (as dramatically as possible) put a “hex” on the place. Her participation was thwarted by a sudden case of strep throat – but when the media heard of the plan, they treated it as though it



had really happened!

In New York, Manhattan LP honcho Jim Lesczynski put together a “Guns for Tots” drive to protest the boneheaded banning of toy guns in the city. Handing out cap pistols and water guns outside a Harlem school, Jim and his stalwart cadre avoided harm at the hands of the local liberals, and parlayed the stunt into more media coverage than probably any other LP activity that year – anywhere in the nation.

An Indiana-based WLA operation is putting protest posters online, free for downloading, printing, and posting in one’s local area. At “Welcome to Homeland Security!” < [HYPERLINK “http://welcome.to/HomelandSecurity1”](http://welcome.to/HomelandSecurity1) \o “http://welcome.to/HomelandSecurity1” <http://welcome.to/HomelandSecurity1> > the posters are mostly based on Nazi propaganda posters, “tweaked” to portray the tyrannical nature of the new federal program. Other posters are altered U.S. and British propaganda posters from the same era, plus a few that are more contemporary designs. You’ll see some of these in this issue.

We can hardly wait to try out an idea from Christopher Babcock: Activists in white-face pretend they’re trapped in a sound-proof “free speech zone” outside any deserving public place. That should be rich! Says Chris, “One experienced mime could teach 20 people to do the box routine, the chair, and leaning against the wall in less time than it takes to do the

makeup.... [T]here could be a face painting station and mime boot camp at the entrance to the zone, inducting new participants into the zone.”

Finally, I’ll offer a rather elaborate project that should be able to pay significant dividends.

Put together a kazoo band, decked out in surplus military and/or marching band uniforms covered with medals and ribbons. Think “banana republic dictator’s entourage.” Wacky salutes and much goose-stepping recommended. Play fanfares for major party candidates as they arrive at events. Greet them with signs (“American Nutsy Party Endorses [R or D candidate]”), and shine flashlights on them (like so many little spotlights). Why flashlights? Because they’ll be flashists, of course. If you must, print up stickers with the phonetic schwa symbol “c” – so your armbands and caps can have schwa-stickers, don’t you see....

Now, only in the most free-wheeling of libertarian groups would any connection between this American Nutsy Party and the Libertarian Party be acknowledged. Usually, candidates would be best off keeping their distance ... but also making reasonable comments to the media and to voters about the aptness of the parody.

There’s a taste of gorilla politics. For contrast, now think back to all the blood, sweat, and tears spent on past campaigns (only to get a couple percent of the vote), and on other LP projects that are studiously ignored by the media and virtually invisible to the public. Shouldn’t you spend at least half your hours of volunteer activism doing something more entertaining and having a bigger and longer lasting effect on the media and the public? The sanity you save could be your own!

Oh, yeah. If you can get a gorilla suit ... knock yourself out.

Kent Van Cleave is a philosopher at Indiana University, Bloomington, and an Internet gorilla activist.

My Contribution to Science

by *Marc J. Victor*

I recall learning about the painfully short half-life of certain chemical compounds in high school chemistry. Some of those nasty little compounds expire in hours, minutes or even a few short seconds. Several years after high school, I can now truly empathize with such to become a judge on the court of appeals. Despite good credentials and numerous letters of recommendation from several respected judges and other accomplished people, I was not deemed worthy of an interview by the appellate court selection committee. It may have had something to do with the fact that I cited a need for intellectual diversity as my reason for wanting to become an appellate court judge and used the term “pro-freedom” in my application. Maybe I was doomed from the start.

My application to become a superior court judge pro tem was lodged with visions of presiding over selected criminal jury trials. As a judge pro tem, I expected to have the luxury of picking and choosing my limited trial assignments. I was determined neither to conceal nor to violate my principles. My application included a disclosure that I am on the legal committee for the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (“NORML”) as well as the fact that I co-founded the Freedom Summit [HYPERLINK “http://www.freedomsummit.com”](http://www.freedomsummit.com) www.victorandhall.com. In addition, my application included my associations with the Foundation for Economic Education, the Future of Freedom Foundation and CATO.

I was pleasantly surprised when my application was approved and I was appointed for a one year term as a superior court judge pro tem. I was excited and eager to work hard and do justice.

After two months of waiting for a criminal trial assignment on a non-victimless case, I inquired about obtaining such an assignment. I learned that the superior court’s urgent need was for pro tem judges to cover the assortment of cases composing the pre-trial calendar. I had refused countless opportunities to cover court calendars

I believed would contain predominately drug cases. On a day when the court was desperate for help, the court administration was agreeable to reassign a full time judge and arrange a criminal court calendar I believed would not contain many drug cases. I agreed but expected some non-violent drug cases would be on my calendar.

Determined to be honest and honorable, I decided to recuse myself on all drug related cases. To avoid being accused of having secret or illegitimate motives, I drafted a detailed six page minute entry explaining the legal reasons underlying my anticipated recusal. I believed the parties had a right to know why I refused to hear their case. After all, the government, including judges, are supposed to be agents of the people; not masters.

When my first (and last) day as a judge arrived, I learned there were seven drug cases on my calendar of thirty seven matters. I arranged for another judge to handle the seven drug cases and offered to take several non-drug cases in exchange. I planned to recuse myself from the seven drug cases and reassign them to the other judge to be heard that same day.

Shortly after I began my court calendar, a friendly law enforcement officer arrived with several routine arrest warrants to be signed. All but one of the proposed arrest warrants were for drug cases. The other was for a questionable gun case. I informed the law enforcement officer of my principled refusal to consider his warrants and sent him away. To my surprise, the officer informed me of his support before he left to seek out a more agreeable judge.

Without my knowledge, the clerk e-mailed my recusal minute entry to her supervisor who forwarded it to the presiding criminal judge of the superior court. I soon found myself on the telephone with an angry judge who voiced his disagreement with my legal reasoning by referring to my minute entry as “bullshit.” He ordered me not to issue my minute entry on any cases until after he consulted with the presiding judge of the superior court. He

promised a quick call back.

Back in chambers, I informally explained to the prosecutor and defense attorney why I hesitated to call their drug case. While the defense attorney sat shocked, the prosecutor informed me of his unqualified support. I eventually decided to retake the bench and recuse myself. I stated on the record that I intended to disclose my reasons for recusal in a detailed minute entry.

The cranky presiding criminal law judge soon called back and informed me he was not happy with my performance. I was fired and told to leave immediately. Before I left, the clerk who initially e-mailed her supervisor with my minute entry privately told me of her unqualified support for my position. Two other defense attorneys also came back into chambers to voice their support. I walked out of court that day a bit disappointed but with my principles firmly intact.

While my judicial career was going up in flames, my good friend and guerilla libertarian activist, Ernest Hancock [HYPERLINK “http://www.ernesthancock.com”](http://www.ernesthancock.com) www.ernesthancock.com was driving to the courthouse to see me wearing the black robe. I called Ernie and told him my judicial career was over. Although neither of us predicted my lifespan as a judge would be long, his response was, “Already?” In what seemed like seconds later, the press was calling me for comment.

The next morning, I was news. The television, radio and print media all did stories about the judge who was fired because he refused to hear drug cases. I received about one hundred e-mails; not one negative. Many of the e-mails I received praised me for having integrity. I also learned that within hours of my firing, the presiding justice of the Arizona Supreme Court issued an order recinding my appointment as a judge pro tem.

The Supreme court’s order stated in relevant part, “Having expressly declared his inability to be impartial in the application of the law and the disposition of cases before him....” I found this language curious

as I had not declared any inability to be impartial. Moreover, the Supreme Court’s order appeared as if I had issues with all laws as there was no mention of drug cases specifically nor any connection with my reasons for recusal.

About a week later, an editorial writer from a major local newspaper showed up to interview me. He was shocked to learn that there was a much bigger principle involved than the right to smoke pot. He wrote a great article which now appears on my law firm website [HYPERLINK “http://www.victorandhall.com”](http://www.victorandhall.com) www.victorandhall.com.

After my initial publicity waned, another local superior court judge pro tem drove drunk and killed a seventeen year old high school student who was riding a bike. The professional, unbiased, fair and balanced newspaper editorial staff writers at the Arizona Republic published an editorial recklessly lumping me with the other judge under the title, “Two Bad Apples.” It wasn’t my proudest moment, but I concluded some people would draw the fine distinction.

Being unsatisfied merely that my unusually distinguished judicial career was over, the presiding judge of the superior court referred my conduct to the Commission on Judicial Conduct. Among other things, I was accused of acting in a manner which fails to promote public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. I was asked to formally respond to the judicial complaint against me. After reviewing the incident and my response, the Commission on Judicial Conduct dismissed the presiding judge’s complaint against me.

Although my judicial career ended abruptly, my career as a scientist is off to a promising start. I may have been the first to discover that the compound P-L-J (principled libertarian judge) has a tragically short half-life when mixed with the highly toxic compound C-B (criminal bench). For now, I will continue my experiments combining the volatile and explosive compound A-L-C-D-A (aggressive libertarian criminal defense attorney) with all varieties of T-S (toxic statists).



The Hidden Slavery: Global Child Sex Traffic

by David Bannon, Ph.D.

“International sex trafficking is the new slavery.”
- Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

Right now 1,000,000 children are slaves.

The global child sex trade produces billions of dollars each year, with profits that often fund terrorist cells, yet it remains hidden from public scrutiny. Like early reports on the Holocaust, the atrocity of child trafficking stuns the reader into disbelief and denial. As West Point psychology professor Dave Grossman wrote in his book, *On Killing*, “This simple, naïve tendency to disbelieve or look the other way is, possibly more than any other factor, responsible for the perpetuation of atrocity and horror in our world today.”

Child sex slavery is horrifyingly real. And it may not remain hidden for long.

In the last year, child sex traffic has been covered in venues as politically diverse as *Reason*, *New York Times Magazine*, *Rolling Stone* and *Christianity Today*. Last month, UNICEF’s executive director Carol Bellamy declared, “Trafficking is among the worst violations of child rights in the world.” In a 72-page report presented to the United Nations from the Innocenti Research Centre in Florence, UNICEF said nearly every country in the world is affected as importers or exporters, or both, in trafficking – although many do not recognize its existence. The Univ. of Pennsylvania and the Univ. of Montreal reported that 269,000 women and children were imported into the United States for forced labor and prostitution in 2000. Of the children missing in the U.S., a little over 10% are sold overseas for between \$30-50,000 each. The trade includes unspeakable sexual abuse, murder of the victims, and resulting pornography recording these acts, often traded or broadcast live on the Internet. Preda-

tors force subservience through a vicious combination of violence and drugs.

This problem is as dark and old as humanity. Not everyone has ignored it.

In 1979, Interpol Commissioner Jacques Defferre founded the sub-directorate Archangel to hunt those who traffic in children. An offshoot of an earlier international program from the 1960s, Archangel’s operation was covered under the second of Interpol’s loosely worded missions: “To establish and develop all institutions likely to contribute effectively to the prevention and suppression of ordinary law crimes.” The world’s second largest international alliance (after the U.N.), Interpol’s 180+ member countries unanimously condemned child sex trafficking. However, child prostitution statutes ranged from harsh punishment in some countries to overt government co-operation in others where human traffic was completely legal.

The overwhelming, global nature of child molestation and pornography led to Interpol’s creation of a team dedicated to hunting the two classifications of those involved in this illicit traffic: (1) Consumers who bought and sold images and tapes made by individuals abusing their relatives or children in their care; and (2) Producers that bought children as young as one year from willing parents, and kidnapped others and traded them around the world. Producers worked within a vast global network to dance around the laws of multiple nations while plying their trade.

Archangel’s mission: Identify child sex slavery producers and eliminate them.

Archangel assassination teams traveled the world, tracking individuals identified by Interpol’s technical arm, Rosetta. Working on information provided in Rosetta dossiers, Archangel teams often caught producers in the act of buying, selling or molesting children. Such cases were clear-cut to the officers, and in the absence of due process – a

term that dramatically changed meaning from country to country – the team’s actions seemed warranted. However, Archangels did not always witness their targets abusing and torturing a child, but were still required to complete the assignment – taking on faith that Rosetta had fulfilled its investigative function to have absolute photographic and eyewitness evidence of the producer’s actions. With such sweeping powers and a global reach, Archangel’s activities may never be fully revealed. Archangel was officially disbanded in 1989 and unofficially ceased activities by 1991.

Defferre, head of Archangel and one of the most influential spies of the last 20 years, died at age 67 in Marseilles last year. But his work lives on, out of the shadows.

In an address to the U.N. last September, President George W. Bush condemned human trafficking as a “special evil” that “must not be allowed to thrive in our time.” Bush cited a State Department report of 900,000 women and children sold across international borders each year, including some children “as young as five, who fall victim to the sex trade.” Human traffic is not isolated to distant third world countries. “This problem has appeared in my own country,” Bush said, “and we are working to stop it.” He specifically mentioned the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, which “makes it a crime for any person to enter the United States, or for any citizen to travel abroad for the purpose of sex tourism involving children.”

The president’s stance was supported by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft, who wrote to the *NY Times Magazine* about “the very real practice of human trafficking,” calling it a “pure and unadulterated evil...that should long ago have been consigned to the ash heap of discarded inhumanity.”

Such administrative resolve is laudable, but Americans should be watchful for abuses similar to Interpol’s Archangel.

For example, in his U.N. address, Bush said, “The Department of Justice is actively investigating sex tour operators and patrons, who can face up to 30 years in prison.” Ashcroft confirmed this, stating, “In order to address trafficking at its root, Justice Department officials have traveled to foreign ‘source’ nations.” When a U.S. citizen is victimized abroad, Congress has granted the FBI “extraterritorial jurisdiction...with the consent of the host country” to arrest a foreign national in the host country and deliver the suspect to American soil for prosecution.

In these and other ways, that old propaganda ploy – “do it for the children” – might be exploited by powerful forces to extend an already growing infringement on civil liberties at home and abroad. However, our resistance to invidious political agendas should not cloud the very real victimization of defenseless innocents. In the upcoming election, we can insist that child sex trafficking be addressed.

As an undercover officer for Interpol, I have seen it, from Thailand to Belgium, South Korea to Romania, and even in the United States: Children as young as 18 months tortured, abused, even murdered for the sexual gratification of those who trade in innocent lives. The sheer numbers can be numbing, but even one child is far, far too much.

We, as citizens of the world, must band together to stop it.

Retired Interpol officer David R. Bannon holds a doctorate in history and serves as an expert witness in criminal cases on global human trafficking. He has discussed international crime on Fox News Channel, Discovery Channel, A&E, History Channel, TechTV, NPR and *Declare Your Independence* with Ernest Hancock. He recently published his memoir, *Race Against Evil: The Secret Missions of the Interpol Agent Who Tracked the World’s Most Sinister Criminals* (New Horizon Press). Learn more at <http://www.davidbannon.net>.



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From the author of

The politicians of the city were corrupt. They had taken the people’s property . . . and their freedom.

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Illustration by Scott Bieser



Gubernatio Virulentus

by Mark Yannone

The word “politics” is derived from the word “poly,” meaning “many,”

and the word “ticks,” meaning “bloodsucking parasites.”

- Larry Hardiman

Got a problem? Too bad. Writing letters to your congressmen, demonstrating, voting, going to court, petitioning, demanding respect for rights--the results, if any, are almost always disappointing and counter to what would normally be expected.

At this point, the only reasonable approach to dealing with government at any level is to treat it as a virus. That's exactly the way the US federal government has been behaving. Since its intentional birth via our Constitution, it has morphed from a Constitutional Republic to a Social Democratic Fascism as it seized every opportunity that would permit it to thrive.

The first phase of this virus was the infection of agents, using money, power, and privilege as the infecting tools to create dependence, buy compliance, or assure loyalty. The other phase is the attack, which can occur anytime the virus believes it can overcome serious obstacles and advance toward its goal of gaining complete control. Both phases, infection and attack, are ongoing.

It should be amply clear to most that judges are infected agents. The president, too, is infected. Most members of congress are infected, as are their many minions, including the major members of the media. The result is an organism that appears invincible.

Laws are a useless defense since words are always interpreted in the organism's favor by the judiciary's infected agents, exactly as Thomas Jefferson warned us in 1789 and again in 1820. Access to courts is artificially restricted by the organism anyway. Worse, judgments have no value without enforcement by the organism's infected agents. Money is no help either since no one can outbid the organism that creates all of the money. Force is out of the question now that the organism controls the ultimate weapons. Public opinion doesn't stand a chance since the organism trains the public in their youth indoctrina-

tion camps and via major members of the media. Resistance only prompts the organism to convict more innocents and build more prisons to house them. Creative resources that could be used to counter the organism are shunted to the increasing burdens of day-to-day survival imposed by the organism.

Fortunately, we're facing a virus that may ultimately prove unsuccessful because it kills its indispensable host. Examples of dead-end viral infections include the Soviet Union and East Germany. In the computer world, an unsuccessful virus is one that forces an immediate reformat of the hard drive, killing its host and itself before it can spread.

In order to free ourselves of the organism, should we encourage the death of the host? Maybe just the apparent death of the host will suffice. Perhaps we have enough producers left who can and will sabotage the organism by bypassing and refusing to feed the beast?

Examples of this effort are now pouring in. Bob Schulz of We The People is teaching employers and employees how to stop income tax withholding. Vin Suprynowicz of PrivacyAlert.us is teaching people how to hang on to their property and their privacy. Larken Rose is teaching folks how to avoid federal income taxes by demanding that the tax law be followed to the letter. Lew Rockwell is successfully using LewRockwell.com to widely publish and republish the writings of some of the best minds dedicated to the freedom of the individual and the suppression of the state. Irwin Schiff has dedicated a large part of his life to educating people about the income tax fraud. Radio talk show hosts like Dave Champion and the indomitable Ernest Hancock are teaching why “freedom good, government bad bad bad bad bad.” The work of these people is just the tip of the iceberg. Many others have risen to the challenge, populating the Internet with their informative websites. Individuals across the country have stopped filing income tax forms altogether and have stopped thinking of themselves as slaves. Parents are homeschooling their kids instead of sending them to the youth indoctrination camps. Many have unplugged themselves from the major members of the infected media, foregoing TV and socialist newspapers.

The death knell of the organism is

sounding, faintly but audibly. Congress, a thoroughly infected agent itself, is beginning to feel insecure and unsafe. It has created a virtually incomprehensible, therefore unworkable, tax code. Computer programs that attempt to levy the federal income tax demand more powerful computers every year, which many are loathe to buy. The income tax code changes are generated faster than they can be implemented by the software companies--who do the best they can, even if it means selling defective software that incorrectly calculates tax “liabilities.” The IRS is so overburdened by their own system they have to send tax returns to foreign countries like India for processing with cheap labor.

Federal offices in Washington, DC, are barricaded against the fury and vengeance of the world. Attacks by hijacked plane and anthrax, assassination attempts, and bomb threats have hit this target-rich city. The viral organism we call government is the most prolific killer in the history of the world, for which retribution is now sought. The wounded have also vowed to get even. More attacks and threats against the viral core in DC are almost certain. US handgun ownership doubled in the second half of the 20th century, and it wasn't for hunting deer. Foreign countries have spent themselves to near extinction in arming themselves against the beast.

Others have been more subtle in their anger, merely refusing to sell goods and services to the beast. Some are going further and are offering their business first to those who are proudly proclaimed enemies of the state, those who will not use their dollars against their customers. There are many ways to starve the organism.

Can we rid ourselves of this Gubernatio Virulentus? Yes. If we can prove to those who have allowed themselves to become infected that they have not been acting in their own best interests, then the job will be easy. A national bankruptcy will do it. Runaway inflation that renders the currency worthless will do it. Empty grocery stores, empty highways, and anarchy will do it. Pictures of our future will do it.

Then what? If we do manage to purge ourselves of this viral tumor, what can we do to avoid this in the future? Our legislators were allowed to pass laws they never read or that they knew were unconstitutional. They shrugged it off, claiming the offending sections could always be amended or would be settled in the courts later. That kind of expediency was widely accepted. It allowed everyone to (God help us) . . .” move on.” Thus bad law was compounded with bad

law, until bad law predominated and was accepted as valid. Wholesale rejection or reform of the resultant huge body of twisted unconstitutionality was unthinkable, and there were no resources available to fight the millions of battles to restore this country to the principles upon which it was founded. The rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness were reduced to empty, meaningless words from faded history that had no application in our lives.

If property rights were rigorously defended (by deadly force, if necessary), if we refuse to accept compromise and expediency, if the ends could never justify the means, if there were no possibility of “moving on” as we have, if the public acted as a continuous virus scanner with the education and resolve to neutralize infected agents (by force, if necessary), maybe we could keep our rights intact. If we focus on these matters instead of pretending to involve ourselves in government by playing the rich-versus-poor, liberal-versus-conservative, Democrat-versus-Republican game, maybe then we can sidestep the endless battles and slavery that have been our unfortunate destiny. If we can remember that the only legitimate function of government is to protect the rights of individuals--and behave accordingly--then we will remain virus-free.

“How we burned in the prison camps, later thinking: What would things have been like if every (Soviet) police operative, when he went out at night to make an arrest, had been uncertain whether he would return alive? ... if during periods of mass arrests people had not simply sat there in their lairs (apartments), paling with terror at every bang of the downstairs door and at every step on the staircase, but had understood they had nothing to lose and had boldly set up in the downstairs hall an ambush of half a dozen people with axes, hammers, pokers, or whatever else was at hand? ... the organs would very quickly have suffered a shortage of officers ... and, notwithstanding all of Stalin's thirst, the cursed (Communist government) machine would have ground to a halt.”

- Alexander Solzhenitsyn, a Nobel Prize winner who spent eight years in communist concentration camps.

In the name of the State, I now pronounce...

by Ernest Hancock

Almost 20 years ago my wife and I had a great wedding with all the trimmings in a small town church in central Pennsylvania. I remember purposefully waiting until the night before to write my vows and then spent the rest of the evening and the morning of the wedding day memorizing them. The heart felt written words are where my wife, Donna, can surely get her hands on them should she feel the need to remind me of the promises I made. But this verbal and written contract witnessed by well over a hundred people and overseen by a man of God was sullied by the intrusion of the words, “By the Power Vested in me by The State of Pennsylvania...”. I also remember being taken behind the alter before leaving the church to sign the marriage “license”. This forced menage a trios/prima nocte with the government was the only tarnish on an otherwise perfect day. And I would never allow such an intrusion on the most important day of my life had I the life experience and knowledge I now enjoy.

How is it that state sanction became part of the most private relationship

known to human beings? We talk of privatizing many government functions such as utilities, police, fire protection and Social Security and I would like to add *marriage* to the list.

Not allowing government to force its way into your relationships with others would remove the state from an agreement between two (or more) consenting adults. If you wished to have a ceremony or ritual to make the agreement more memorable and have a higher meaning, the you should be free to do so. Religious institutions, or any other kind, may choose whatever rules they deem appropriate to sanction a relationship. Even “privatized” marriages that enter into a voluntary contract that the state might be asked to enforce, can still have the terms defined by those entering into the contract. Those terms could be as detailed as desired. The free-market would produce as many different marriage contracts in popular women's/men's magazines as there are celebrity diets. A web search today for “Marriage Contract” will produce over 496,000 sites.

It was the Marriage Act of 1754 in

England that began the tradition we have of marriage being regulated by law. In the New World, marriages were performed by local government officials but common-law unions were just as valid. As the 20th century progressed along with the idea that government belonged in every aspect of our public and private lives, the legislatures and courts have done their best to smooth out the wrinkles and provide us with a one-size-fits-all package. But the idea that government shouldn't be setting any rules or providing for advantages or disadvantages in law based on your personal relationships is rarely addressed.

Leave it to the government to think that transportation, communications, science, art, religion, education or marriage could be made uniform so as to serve the needs of hundreds of millions of people in this country with a near infinite combination of needs desires and relationships. The free-market of ideas and of goods and services is the only known ‘system’ with the ability to provide the diverse needs of individuals. And for something as important, personal and long lasting as marriage I will

advocate nothing less.

The free-market would spare individuals the frustration and betrayal of the state changing their contract without warning. Each church, synagogue, mosque, temple, cult, club, group, or pair could make their own rules about sanctioning the voluntary unions of individuals. And if private arbitration was not preferred in the original contract then maybe the only role government might be asked to play is to enforce a contract that specified their power to do so.

I'm very encouraged by how many more people are understanding of the concept that the more important something is the less you want the government involved, and intimate personal relationships are very important.

“Freedom's the Answer,... What's the Question”

Ernest was aided in the writing of this article by the writings of David Boaz, the author of [HYPERLINK “http://www.libertarianism.org”](http://www.libertarianism.org) \t “_blank” Libertarianism: A Primer and editor of The Libertarian Reader <http://www.libertarianism.org/>.

Firefly: The Review

by Powell Gammill

In 2002, Fox briefly brought a science fiction-western classic series to their unwatched Friday night lineup called, “Firefly.” It was remarkably good. It was markedly libertarian in theme. Fox, the formerly maverick network that brought so many original shows, but is now just a mundane fourth rate network, promptly cancelled it. In doing so they created a cult classic. [see <http://www.fireflyfans.net>www.fireflyfans.net]

“Firefly” takes place 500 years in the future. Earth has been used up and destroyed in a final Sino-Anglo war, and humanity has expanded outward into the galaxy, where we are alone (no aliens). Transforming worlds into Earth-like planets as they went (Terraforming). Along the way they had a galactic civil war. The “Central Planets” which are modern, technologically advanced worlds declared that all inhabited worlds and their people fell under their governance, termed “the Alliance.” The rustic outer worlds who called themselves the “Independents,” was composed of those who did not conform in the first place and who worked hard to survive in Spartan conditions, disagreed. The end of that conflict is where “Firefly” begins, at the Battle of Serenity Valley. Here we meet Sergeant Malcolm “Mal” Reynolds (Nathan Fillion) holding his “Browncoat” soldiers together waiting for reinforcements from the “Independents,” as the Central Planet’s “Alliance” forces attack their defenses. In the end, his commanders refuse to send reinforcements, and order him to surrender

his forces. His company and his cause are betrayed by those in charge who refuse to risk everything for their cause, his forces are slaughtered, and his cause is lost.

Jump six years later and Mal is captaining a barely holding together archaic Firefly class space transport vessel he has named, “Serenity.” He is surviving by staying out of the way of the Alliance as best he can, in the remote rural reaches of the colonies, where government presence is less because there is little worth the government protecting or taking. He will take any job, “don’t much care what it is,” including pulling off small crimes and transport-for-hire to keep his ship flying. He leads a small, eclectic crew who are the closest thing he has left to family -- squabbling, insubordinate and mostly loyal. His first mate is Zoe (Gina Torrez), a woman who was his former second in command during the war. She is married to the ship’s pilot (Alan Tudyk) who is insecure in his wife’s relationship to the captain. They have a mercenary sociopath Jayne (Adam Baldwin) whose loyalties are to himself, and acts as the ship’s “Public Relations” Director with a wide variety of firearms. They have a pretty, naive, but not so innocent ships mechanic Kaylee (Jewel Staite). And a prostitute named Inara (Morena Baccarin), who is considered to give the ship class and respectability. They are all well armed and proficient in the use of firearms.

They picked up passengers who become crew members. A preacher (Ron

Glass – “Barney Miller”) has joined them, only he swings a mean fist, gun and has a mysterious connection with the Alliance. The captain is none to fond of preachers. A mysterious and smug doctor (Sean Maher) who has smuggled his unstable sister (Summer Glau) out of a government run camp where she was being experimented upon, and is now damaged goods. The pair are fugitives from the coalition dominating the universe, who will stop at nothing to reclaim the girl, including killing anyone who has contact with her.

The crew that was once used to skimming the outskirts of the galaxy unnoticed find themselves caught between the unstoppable military force of the Universal Alliance and the horrific, cannibalistic fury of the Reavers, blood thirsty cannibalistic pirates who roam the very edge of space. Hunted by vastly different enemies, they begin to discover that the greatest danger to them may be on board “Serenity” herself.

Joss Whedon - the Oscar® and Emmy®-nominated writer/director responsible for the worldwide television phenomena of “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” and spin-off “Angel,” is the creator of “Firefly.” The first time I saw this show I said Whedon has to be a libertarian in philosophy. Whedon has applied his trademark character and story themes: responsibility, self-reliance, dedication, sacrifice, compassion, loyalty and wit (this show had genuine and surprising belly laughs) to create what should have developed into to both great characters and issues to write about (if you are a TV writer) and a fun show to watch. With the whole well armed, independent anti-government thing it is no wonder that the Fox execs did not have a clue.

You can buy a very well packaged, 4 DVD set of all “Firefly” episodes that were produced, including unaired episodes (placed in their correct order) for about \$35. You get around 20 hours of entertainment. Since its release in December of 2003, the DVD has sold over 250,000 copies in less than three months! That is incredible! As I write this in April, it is currently the 33rd highest selling DVD on Amazon <http://www.amazon.com>, it is the #10 best seller in the United Kingdom, and #18 in Canada. Of the hundreds of radio shows, Ernest Hancock has done, the episode on Firefly is the fourth most popular download: “<http://www.ernesthancock.com/archive/media/2004-03-08-ernie.mp3>” <http://www.ernesthancock.com/archive/media/2004-03-08-ernie.mp3>.

And Universal Pictures has announced that Whedon will write (“Toy Story,” “Titan A. E.,” “Alien Resurrection”) and direct a movie based upon “Firefly,” titled “Serenity,” which takes place six months into the future from where the show left off. Can you say resurrection?

If the film is a success, we hopefully will see “Firefly” return on a new network. The movie is a done deal. The movie has a \$40 million budget and will be released in 2005. All of the original cast have signed up to continue their characters in the movie, except Ron Glass.

Part of this review was adapted from a press release from UNIVERSAL CITY, Calif., March 3 /PRNewswire/ I would like to thank many of the web sites devoted to “Firefly”, whose links were found on <http://www.fireflyfans.net>

Computers and Activists: communication in a Hostile Environment

by Paul Schauble

A few years back, just for fun, I attended a Soldier of Fortune Expo in Las Vegas. The exhibits included an impressive array of weapons, explosives, and other things that go boom. But there was one thing not on display that was glaring in its absence: communications gear.

It doesn’t matter if you’re taking over a small country, starting a revolution, organizing a demonstration, or just keeping a political activist groups going, your main problems are likely to be the 3 Cs: communications, command, and control.

Communications covers too much territory to address in this article, so I will just talk about maintaining communications on the Internet when the local authoritarian government is trying to prevent them. The government tactics are likely to include monitoring telephones, intercepting email, and filtering out web sites and newsgroups.

In this discussion, we have to distinguish hiding traffic from hiding content. Hiding traffic hides the fact that a message was passed; hiding content allows the message to be seen and perhaps intercepted but conceals the message content. Encryption is one technique for hiding content. Hiding traffic is called steganography.

There are any number of tools available for encrypted email. Most major email programs will support encryptions if you

have a digital certificate and the digital certificate for the person you’re sending to. Then, encrypting your email is as easy as checking a box when you send mail. The flaw in this structure is that these digital certificates have to be created by some central authority. There is presently a worldwide network of private companies and a few governments that do this. The authority that issues your certificate may release enough information to a hostile party to enable them to reconstruct your certificate. This exposes all email encrypted with that certificate.

PGP remedies this problem by keeping all the information making up the certificate in your possession. There are two versions available. The United States commercial version is sold by PGP Corporation. It is packaged nicely and comes with an easy to use interface. On the downside, it is limited to the 128 bit key encryption that the US Government allows in exported products. Any major government has the resources to break this level of encryption. The other version is an open source freeware version written outside of the U.S. and therefore free of restrictions (pgpi.org). It’s not as easy to use, but it doesn’t have the key length encryption restrictions.

All of these products leave exposed that fact that you have sent email and that you have sent it encrypted. If you only

send a few messages encrypted this points a bright spotlight at those messages. So if you use email encryption, encrypt as many messages as possible. That way, the few messages that you really care to protect are hidden in the mass of encrypted messages about mowing the lawn and your shopping list.

Hiding a message in a large data flow is the essence of modern steganography. There are tools available to hide messages in JPEG files, MP3 files, digital movies, or pirated software. The message is stored by altering the file in subtle ways that can’t be seen or heard, but which allow the message to be recovered when decoded in the proper way. Most of the tools use a password as a hiding key.

For example, a program called MP3Stego (<http://www.petitcolas.net/fabien/steganography/mp3stego/>) hides text messages in MP3 files. Another, called StegHide (<http://steghide.sourceforge.net/>) hides messages in BMP and WAV files. A low-cost commercial product called CryptoBolo (<http://www.cryptobola.com/>) hides messages in JPEG files. There is another tool found on the internet that hides a message by generating a very normal looking piece of spam email. Again, with the right password the message can be recovered.

Just think, that ordinary piece of porn could contain the secret to never paying

Income Taxes again.

Nothing, however, is perfect. For every method of hiding a message there is a method of detecting it. CIA Director George Tenet has claimed that Arab terrorists are using these techniques to communicate with cells in the United States. Because of this, many people are working on detecting hidden messages.

But detecting steganography messages is a daunting job. The Usenet binary newsgroups are now running around 100 Gigabytes per day, every day. Finding something in that firehose of a data stream will remain a challenge for a while to come.

So these methods will provide a reasonable degree of security that will probably keep your messages hidden for a while. They don’t address the problem of denial of service. It certainly isn’t beyond your local authoritarian government to cut off your Internet service or your phone service or to raid your place of operations and talk your computer equipment. All of these are happening.

Don’t depend too much on any single communications method. Osama bin Laden eluded U.S. electronic survielance by relying on messages and runners. The old methods may not be as convenient, but they still work. There are still groups communicating by carrier pigeon.

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THINK

AGAIN

Is the “United States” a Christian “nation?”

by Marc Stevens

A popular myth is the “United States” is a “Christian nation” or a “nation” founded on Judeo-Christian ethics. This is actually two separate myths: 1) there is a “nation” and 2) it’s founded on Judeo-Christian ethics. The first myth, that there is a “nation,” is proven to be a myth by Judeo-Christian ethics themselves. As I will show, a “nation,” as we know it, cannot be founded on Judeo-Christian ethics. This is based a simple truth: no service or product should be provided at the barrel of a gun.

To unravel these myths, we must know what a “nation” such as the so-called “United States” is, or is supposed to be. As the name suggests, the “United States” is more than one “state” joined together. What is a “state” though? We can quickly dispel the political nonsense a “state” is a geographic location such as “New York.” If not, then politicians should explain where the “State of New York” was on July 3rd, 1776.

A “state” is defined as “A body politic...occupying a definite territory, and politically organized under one government.” Ballentine’s Law Dictionary, page 1210. The “United States” is “A body politic and corporate...” Ballentine’s Law Dictionary, page 1318. A “body politic” is “formed by a voluntary association of individuals: it is a social compact...” Preamble, Massachusetts Constitution and Munn v. Illinois, 94 US 113. “Government” is alleged to be men and women providing the service of protecting “Life, liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness” to those men and women who “Consent” to such service, Declaration of Independence, July 4th, 1776. In reality though, “government” is one man controlling another man without the latter’s consent ostensibly for the latter’s own “good.”

Knowing this, let’s look at the facts. The “states” and the “United States” were allegedly created by pieces of paper and ink called “constitutions.” Being nothing more than paper and ink, “constitutions” are only obligatory on men and women as contracts, agreements or compacts. After all, a “body politic” is supposed to be a “voluntary association.” I recommend reading Lysander Spooner’s No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority. As stated therein, the “constitution” is unsigned and as such created nothing. Myth number one is dispelled on that alone (there are other reasons not included herein): there are no “states” and no “United States.” In other words, there is no “nation.”

Let’s look at just a few common Judeo-Christian ethics and compare them with the real-life application of those four pieces of paper and ink called the “constitution.” The question here is this:

Is the service of protecting “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” provided in a manner consistent with Judeo-Christian ethics?

There are “Thou shalt not kill...thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.” Exodus 20:13, 15-16. And “This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.” John 15:12.

Are you free to accept and support the “constitution” (four pieces of paper and ink) or not? Free means there are no strings or conditions attached, such as being killed, robbed and lied to if you don’t accept. Do you have a choice to not accept the wonderful “protection” (remember 9/11?) and other pretended “services” offered by the “constitution?” If so, are you obligated to pay for such services i.e., your “fair share of taxes?” Can you decline paying “taxes” without being killed, robbed or lied to by men and women claiming to be a “state?”

Let me first dispel the claim you can “just move to another country.” Such emotional claim is ridiculous because the “United States” is not a geographic location but instead ostensibly a “voluntary association of individuals.” It also supports the fact the “constitution” is not offered freely.

The “constitution” isn’t offered freely on a take-it-or-leave it basis like contracts or agreements. Remember, if not a contract, the “constitution” binds no one and creates nothing but is just four really old pieces of paper and ink. Those “services” are provided and paid for on a compulsory basis; your “Consent” has nothing to do with it.

So, to answer the question, NO; the service of protecting “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” is NOT provided in a manner consistent with the above Judeo-Christian ethics:

“Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!” Habakkuk 2:12.

The idea there’s a “benefit” to people because a group of men and women provide their “services” on a compulsory basis and this so-called “benefit” then somehow “obligates” people to pay “taxes” is preposterous. That’s how the mob does business.

The “constitution” is offered on a compulsory or violent basis. This contradicts “state constitutions” and the Declaration of Independence that state it’s “voluntary” and by “Consent.” This is inconsistent with Exodus 20:15 and John 15:12. What if you refuse to “pay your fair share?” Refuse to “pay your fair share” and you provide these valiant protectors of “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” with an awesome opportunity to contradict Exodus 20:13.

If you doubt application of the “constitution” contradicts Exodus 20:13 and John 15:12, then go back into the “history” books and refresh your memory about the “civil war.” Read about the slaughter of men, women and children because they decided to leave the pretended “voluntary association of individuals.” So much for the asinine “if

you don’t like this country then leave.” If you still doubt this, read article I § 2 of the Nevada “constitution.” For those who are not faint of heart, grow marijuana on land you are convinced you own. When the men with machine guns show up, boldly tell them you have no agreement or “social compact” with them and they should get off your property immediately. When you say it make sure your hands are empty and where the agriculture police can see them.

Even if we assume there’s a “nation,” it was not based on Judeo-Christian ethics because those so-called “services” are paid for on a violent basis. The taking of property by force or threats of force is called stealing. The act of stealing and “taxation” are virtually identical. You don’t have to take my word for it either: “tax. A forced burden...A tax is not regarded as a debt in the ordinary sense of the term, for the reason that a tax does not depend upon the consent of the taxpayer...” Ballentine’s Law Dictionary, page 1255-56. Real customers, voluntarily accepting real services, incur debts.

You don’t have to be a rocket scientist to know and understand “taxes” are based on violence. People pay to avoid the violence. A clue to the quality of the “services” provided by the local “state” is the fact that payment is compulsory. What kind of people provide their “services” at the barrel of a gun? Why would a “valuable service” everybody allegedly wants have to be provided on a compulsory basis?

Oh yeah, what about the part in the Bible about Caesar? “Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar’s...” Matthew 22:21. This is an absurd attempt to justify the violent taking of property i.e., robbery. Caesar and his henchmen conquered the Jews; he never claimed to be protecting them with their consent as their servant. Do the people who make this claim believe there was a “social compact” between Caesar and the Jews?

And for those people reading this who need to divert attention by making claims about being “free” in this “country,” let me point out just how “free” we are; that is just another myth like the one there is a “country.”

You are not “free” to post anything on the internet unless you get permission first. Don’t believe me? OK, don’t pay the “tax” your ISP collects for the “privilege” of doing business. If you have a dial-up connection you better make sure all those “communication taxes” are paid first.

You’re free to be in any profession you want? Nonsense; better go to those “state” approved “schools” first. Make sure you get permission to work by getting a so-called “license.” Oh, your chosen profession isn’t “required” to have a “license” just yet? Make sure you fill in your “tax forms” before you start and

don’t forget to report every single penny. Forget ten little pennies and you are suddenly a felon and your home “seized” to pay for your “trial.”

Free to marry the person of your choice? Think again, you need a so-called “license.” Free to live with that significant other? Sorry, that’s a crime also. Think you can freely engage in consensual sexual relations with another adult in the privacy of that home you think you own? Think again.

Believe you’re “free” to walk down the street? Too bad, better have a “state” issued ID card or you’ll be awarded six months in a “state” jail if your friendly neighborhood “cop” decides it’s your lucky day to be “protected.”

Freedom to say “No” to a service or product you don’t want to have? Yeah right, just say no to the IRS, DEA or the ATF? Sorry, I want my head to stay on top of my neck.

And if you think you have property rights you are sadly mistaken in the eyes of those men and women pretending to be a “state.” To these pretended “servants” individual men and women own NOTHING:

“The ultimate ownership of all property is in the State; individual so-called “ownership” is only by virtue of Government, i.e., law, amounting to mere user; and that use must be in accordance with law and subordinate to the necessities of the State.” Senate Resolution #62, from April 1933.

I think the point is made.

There is no “nation.” To be based on Judeo-Christian ethics, the “nation” would have to be a “voluntary association.” The service of protecting “Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness” would have to be provided on a purely voluntary basis and that means it’s also paid for just like every other service – voluntarily.

Because what is supposed to be a “nation” today was, and is, based on violence, there is no “nation” because “nations” and “states” are “voluntary.” Go ahead and challenge this, keep in mind the founding “constitutions” would then contradict Exodus 20:13 i.e., a “body politic” is “formed by a voluntary association of individuals: it is a social compact...” Preamble, Massachusetts Constitution and Munn v. Illinois, 94 US 113.

This presents statist with a real problem: if “nations” are NOT voluntary then that itself contradicts Judeo-Christian ethics. It proves there is no “voluntary association” but a violent one. If violent, then there is hardly freedom and liberty let alone being founded on Judeo-Christian ethics.

There is no “nation” or pretended “state.” Just a group of men and women doing business at the barrel of a gun. As Ernest Hancock says, “There are only two types of people; those who want to be left alone and those who won’t leave them alone.”

Wake up America: There is no “nation” and there never was. Stop supporting unproductive anti-social individuals who won’t leave you alone.

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“You may never convince the other guy, but it’s often worthwhile to keep arguing for the effect it has on bystanders, especially his allies.”

L. Neil Smith