

Monterey Libertarians Join AntiWar Protest

by **L. K. Samuels**

Co-Chair, Libertarians for Peace,
Monterey County

Monterey County Libertarians rallied for peace in a series of events organized over the weekend of March 17-19, 2007, the 4th anniversary of the US invasion of Iraq. A coalition of activists from across the political spectrum organized the events, including this author (former LPC Northern Vice Chair **Lawrence K. Samuels**), Prof. **David R. Henderson**, co-chair of Libertarians for Peace in Monterey County, and Hanan Shawar, coordinator of Monterey Code Pink.

Events began with a March 17 peace rally at Monterey's Window-on-the-Bay, where Libertarians for Peace set up an outreach table distributing flyers and buttons. Next to it was a children's shoe display; a tag on each shoe bore the name of a

child killed in Iraq since the US invasion. After the rally, some sixty demonstrators proceeded along Del Monte Blvd., waving peace symbols and antiwar signs.

That night over fifty people attended an awards banquet honoring Congressman Sam Farr for his efforts to end the war in Iraq. In early 2007, Farr had introduced legislation to rescind Bush's authorization to use force, and to exempt libraries and booksellers from provisions of the USA Patriot Act.

Both Henderson and this author spoke to the audience about libertarian ideals and why we never should have invaded a foreign nation that had not threatened or attacked the United States. We mentioned that although libertarians have not always seen eye-to-eye with the liberal congressman, it was time to cement bridges and thank Farr for his peace work [see sidebar]. With humor, Farr replied that he never thought



Photo: Lawrence K. Samuels

• **Mourning the war dead in a mock funeral march in Monterey on March 19**

he would see the day that libertarians were giving him warm accolades.

Two days later, on March 19, over a hundred people participated in a funeral march

through downtown Monterey.

• See **Anti-War** page 7

■ Hollywood Libertarian

Indie Film Lampoons IRS, Homeland Security

by **Thomas M. Sipos**

Editor

Many libertarians *talk* of spreading the message through Hollywood movie magic. **J. Neil Schulman**

INSIDE

New LPC Chair moves quickly in first month **2**

Church of Gaia tries to bend gov't to its faith **4**

Building the party in prime places **5**

Tap into the power of endorsements **6**

GPS software eases signature gathering **8**

is *doing* it! His new action-comedy film, *Lady Magdalene's*, features an IRS agent with Homeland Security training who still can't save us from Al Qaeda—not until he turns to the free market and enlists the help of a brothelful of gun-toting "working girls."

Writer-director Schulman co-executive produced *Lady Magdalene's* with *Star Trek's* Nichelle Nichols, who stars in the title role of a brothel owner in Pahrump, Nevada, where the film was shot. Schulman had known Nichols for some thirty years.

"I met her at a *Star Trek* convention in the 1970s, which I was covering for the *National Star*," said Schulman. "She was in one of the suites where a party was going on. She was lounging on one of the beds. I went up to her with my recorder and lay down next to her, and I

interviewed her. She maintains to this day that she remembers me doing that, which I find astonishing. I was one out of several thousands of reporters that interviewed her."

A tribute to legalized prostitution and private gun ownership, *Lady Magdalene's* was inspired by a true story. Said Schulman, "Back in the late 1980s, the Mustang Ranch went into federal tax receivership. Because it's a legal business,

the federal court appointed a tax receiver for the Ranch. I thought, that's the funniest fish-out-of-water idea I've ever heard. A federal agent managing a legal brothel in Nevada."

Much of the film was shot at Front Site, a privately-owned gun training center in Pahrump. The government was less cooperative. "Hoover Dam refused

us permission to shoot there," said Schulman, "which is why we went there stealthily. One of the security guards at the dam saw our cameramen with the camera on his shoulder. The guard asked if we were shooting professionally. I said,

'No, just home movies.' Which was absolutely true. It was my camera. We did it before principal photography, so I had no contract with the corporation producing the movie to give them any footage. At that point, it was a home movie."

As an inside joke, Schulman includes a scene in his film where his character (he plays the role of a terrorist) waves at the camera while standing at

• See **Indie** page 6



Photo: Lady Magdalene's, LLC

• **Nichelle Nichols plays a Nevada brothel owner whose gun-toting gals help save the home front from terrorists**

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Make a Difference Every Single Day



FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Before I begin, let me thank the outgoing Executive Committee for their dedication to the Libertarian Party of California. Outgoing Chair **Aaron Starr** and Secretary **Dan Wiener** have been especially helpful in transitioning their duties to the new team.

It's been over a month since my election as your Chair, and I have to say it's been nothing less than a frenetic, achievement filled period of time.

What's been done, you might ask? Here's a short list:

- Hired an interim editor for *California Freedom*. After a three-issue trial period, **Thomas M. Sipos** has a chance to become our permanent replacement.

- Created a legislative analyst position to comment on pieces of legislation moving through Sacramento.
- Continued developing our donor base with the newly established Coffee Club fundraising program.
- Delivered the first "California Libertarian eFlyer" email newsletter.
- Scheduled a fundraising reception for the LPC to coincide with our first Executive Committee meeting.

In addition, LPC Staff Executive Director **Angela Keaton** and Office Manager **Ali Martin** are working the backlog of membership tasks and clearing the slate for the new Executive Committee.

We may be out to prove ourselves, but our picking up the pace is what needs to be done in order to achieve our vision of a self-governing society,

increased individual freedom, and greater prosperity for all. We will succeed when we work together as a team and then proceed to make a difference every single day.

This summer, the officers and staff will work with the County parties on our upcoming Election Season. In 2008, we'll have three statewide elections instead of the usual two: a Presidential Preference Primary in February, the regular Primary in June, and, of course, the General election in November 2008. This presents an extra challenge for which we must prepare.

You play a vital role in the success of the Party. Take advantage of the time you have and make a contribution to the cause.

Meet with your local County Party. Help organize a campaign for a local candidate.

Donate money. Attend a City Council, Board of Supervisors, or school board meeting. Write a Letter to the Editor. Reach out to your community. Run for office yourself.

We'll kick off the election season at the aforementioned fundraising reception in San Diego on June 9th. It'll be a chance to meet the new officers and executive committee, and raise money for the LPC.

To reiterate a slogan that Judge Jim Gray said during his campaign for US Senate: "This time it matters." I'll define 'it' to mean: "This time every single day matters."

Carpe diem. Go out and seize the day.

— Kevin Takenaga
Chair



Working to Solve Old Problems



FROM THE EDITOR

Thirty years ago a friend and I entered the 38th Street offices of New York's Free Libertarian Party (as it was then called). We were high school kids who'd only recently discovered the existence of third parties. We came to expand our political button collections, but we also left with some interesting literature. I've been following "this movement of ours" (as the late Samuel E. Konkin III liked to call it) ever since.

The French are right to say, "The more things change, the more they stay the same." I've been hearing the same complaints from libertarians for thirty years now: There aren't enough women in the party. Not enough minorities. We need more young people. We need greater access to the media. We must affect the culture. We need libertarians in Hollywood.

I understand the complaints. What amazes me is the self-righteous indignation of many complainers. Each sounds as if he'd just discovered these problems. It's as if he's a lone voice of wisdom, bringing New Ideas to ignorant old-timers, when the reality is quite the opposite. The trouble is, rather



than solve a problem, many complainers leave the party in frustration after they discover that hot air alone fails to improve matters.

In this issue of *California Freedom*, we bring to you libertarians who *are* solving these problems.

Dan Fernandes of Los Angeles County has founded a "Welcome, New American" project. Dan and his fellow volunteers go out to immigrant swearing-in ceremonies, promoting our party to new citizens, many of them ethnic minorities. (Of course, they'll give their literature to any interested person!) Dan's article explains how he does it in L.A. But there's no reason you can't emulate his fine work elsewhere in the state.

Other libertarians attended the Junior State of America convention to introduce young people to our party. The JSA convention is biannual and the LPC can always use more volunteers in the future.

J. Neil Schulman is bringing libertarianism to Hollywood. This indie filmmaker practices the free market ethics that he preaches. Not content with being an award-winning author published by major New York

houses, Schulman founded his own publishing company (Pulpless.com) in the 1990s. Likewise, when this former writer for TV's *Twilight Zone* remake found that Hollywood wouldn't make his movie, he produced it himself. Read his remarkable tale in this month's issue.

Speaking of libertarian artists, kudos to **Scott Bieser** for gracing our pages with one of his timeless editorial cartoons. Bieser's graphic novels include Schulman's *Escape From Heaven* and L. Neil Smith's *Probability Broach*, as well as his own Drug War satire, *A Drug War Carol*. Visit www.ScottBieser.com to learn how you may download a free pdf copy of *A Drug War Carol*!

British libertarian **Stuart Smith** shares his new cartoon with us. This talented artist's

professional work may be found at www.GravitonCreations.com.

California is known for its youth culture, its entertainment industry, and its attraction for immigrants. If you're doing anything to advance libertarianism in these areas, *California Freedom* will promote your good work. Or maybe you're trying to bring more women into our party? And yes, we can still use some more older white gents.

But whatever you're doing to solve old problems and advance liberty, we can't help promote your project if you don't tell us about it.

— Thomas M. Sipos
Editor

THOMAS M. SIPOS is Vice-Chair of the Los Angeles County LP and is a writer for The Libertarian Perspective.

Like what you see?

Purchase back issues of *California Freedom* in bulk quantity to sell or distribute at your outreach event!

Please contact:
Editor@CA.LP.org



Meeting Notice

The next quarterly meeting of the **LPC Executive Committee** will be held on **Saturday, June 9.**

LAFAYETTE HOTEL & SUITES
2223 El Cajon Blvd
San Diego, CA 92104

Cocktail Reception and Fundraiser following the meeting. Come meet the new officers and members of the Executive Committee.

Cash bar. Cost: \$15.
Call the LPC Office to RSVP.
(877) 884-1776

For more details, check: <http://ca.lp.org/ef20070501.html#upcoming>

All LPC members are welcome to attend.



Activism Without Ideas



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"Don't [sic] give a crap about Rand or Rothbard. It's because of them that a very much needed political party has been a colossal failure to this point..."

— *Disgruntled Blogger*

If you had a good day collecting signatures, thank Ludwig von Mises. If that disturbs your equilibrium too much, thank Friedman. Only in America, the land of "non-fat decaf sugar-free white-chocolate coffee drinks," non-hierarchical grading, and values-neutral sex education could we imagine the notion of activism without ideas.

Human beings must be motivated by ideas. Action without ideas is mindless flailing. This is especially true for libertar-

The dichotomy between boring egghead blather vs. pragmatic activism is artificial

ian activism. We are pushing a complicated set of ideas which are unfamiliar and at times threatening, even repulsive, to the people we are trying to influence.

The dichotomy you often hear in the LP about boring egghead



blather versus pragmatic activism is artificial and dangerous. The people who started the LP, and kept it

going for its first decades, were educated and inspired about what they should do, and why they should do it, by these rarefied intellectuals; libertarianism is nothing without books and ideas—and very specifically

Libertarianism is nothing without books and ideas

without the books and ideas of Rand and Rothbard.

The more "book learning" a candidate or activist has, in both ideology and the practical application of the ideology, the better equipped he will be to communicate with voters. Of course, strategic intelligence about how to communicate with a given audience is essential. While my evidence is merely anecdotal, your campaign for water board is best served by

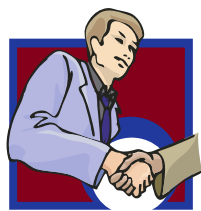
not making the latest debates on marginalism, Hoppian constitutional kingdoms, and the tragedy of the commons (well, what would you say, "Oh, it's a tragedy.") your three key issues.

This does not mean, however, that since your audience does not care about economic theory and philosophical principles that neither should you. On the contrary, it is all the more important that you do care, so that you can translate those ideas into simple, thoughtful explanations on the campaign trail.

"Angela, could you suggest some sound bites or other examples of how to speak to voters?" How the heck would I know! Do I look like Michael Cloud? Coming next month: *Conceptual Models of Labor Theory of Value as Applied to Individual Anarchism and Tips on Ties: What Your Choice in Men's Fashion Says About Your Campaign.*

— *Angela Keaton*
Executive Director

ANGELA KEATON was hired as the LPC's Executive Director in 2006. She has served on the LPC Executive Committee and is an At-Large Representative to the Libertarian National Committee.



Welcome Aboard!

The LPC would like to give a big welcome to these new LPC members who recently joined the party. We hope to get better acquainted with all of you at your regional LP events and maybe even at the June 9 event in San Diego.

Alameda County	Anthony R. Mesa	Union City
Los Angeles County	Kathleen Doll	Lawndale
	George M. Lane	Palmdale
Orange County	Michael Martinez	Seal Beach
San Mateo County	Mark P. Williams	San Carlos

Raise your Cup to New Coffee Club Members!

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

Suzanne Bell
Phillip Berg
Ted Brown
Edward Clark
Zander Collier
Michael Denny
Bruce Dovner
Terry Floyd
Peter McNulty
Chuck Moulton
Rich Newell
Jeffrey Sommer
Aaron Starr
Kevin Takenaga



Holding a Libertarian Event?

Tell us about your plans or how it went

Editor@CA.LP.Org



I Want to Join the California Coffee Club!

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

- ☐ One cup — \$42 per month
- ☐ Two cups — \$84 per month
- ☐ Three cups — \$126 per month
- ☐ Five cups — \$210 per month



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

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP ONLY

DATE

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LPC-2007-02-28



■ Because Ideas Matter

The Environmentalist Church of Gaia

by John M. Ostrowski
Student

Roman mythology and imperial cults have been replaced by a new state-supported religious mythology. The prime deity is none other than the Earth, or Mother Earth as adherents to the new religion call it. Adherents treat threats to their deity with ultimate seriousness. In the past it's been overpopulation, deforestation, man-made global cooling, and nuclear power. Today the prime threat to Mother Gaia is anthropogenic climate change.

As with any religion, environmentalists have a church through which their religious goals are effected. That church is the state, for no "sensible" country on this planet denies that anthropogenic climate change is occurring. Dissenters from the Kyoto Treaty are treated as churches in heresy; anomalies that must be re-converted to the faith.

Perhaps it seems absurd to call environmentalism a

subsidies. Waste management companies would voluntarily turn trash into profitable products—and recycling wouldn't be sacrificial. Instead, government subsidizes recycling programs, and Americans pay

Environmentalists have turned the already ignoble state into an even uglier beast—their church

for this government indulgence via higher taxes and wasted time spent sorting and recycling their own waste.

Environmentalists demand still further religious sacrifices. Carbon dioxide causes global warming, they claim, and thus we humans must drive less, use less oil, and use less energy in our daily business.

Like other religions,

Patrick Moore, the disaffected co-founder of Greenpeace, now calls environmentalist zealots "anti-human."

Whereas most religions seek the betterment of humanity, environmentalism is unique in that it seeks the opposite. The sacrifices that it demands will result in severe harm for those who most need help. In the developing world, environmentalists see an excellent place to implement their policies; existing infrastructure is hard to change, but poor countries provide a *tabula rasa*. Environmentalists preach solar and wind power, but these forms of energy are not reliable or powerful enough to industrialize a third world nation. If the developing world adopts the environmentalists' vision, billions of people who can benefit from industrialization will be condemned to remain in poverty.

Finally, like many religions, environmentalism preaches the end of the world. Fear mongering and predictions of apocalypse are their primary evangelizing



Artist: Stuart Smith, www.gravitoncreations.com

anthropogenic climate change won't cause the end of the world, no one will remember the hyperbolic claims made by environmental zealots. Instead, we'll be entertaining their latest apocalyptic fantasy.

Environmentalism constitutes a religion in every sense of the word, but that doesn't bother me. If progressives (who constitute most of the movement) find their lives empty of meaning absent a religion and thus decide to channel their energy into Earth worship, that's their business. But when they utilize the violently coercive powers of the state for their goals, reasonable people can justifiably challenge the basis of their beliefs.

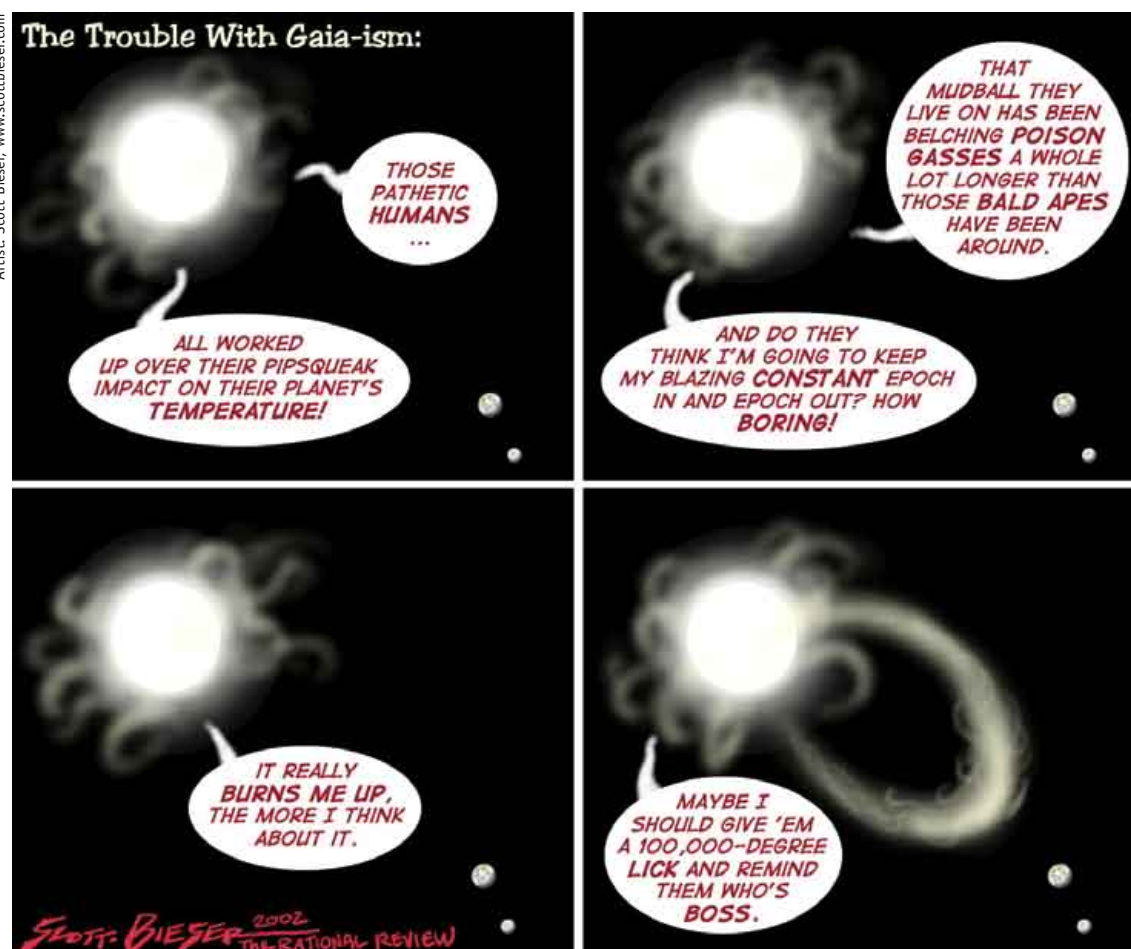
Their assertion that carbon dioxide is causing unprecedented warming is false. The current warming is not unprecedented. During the Medieval Warming Period (AD 800–1300), temperatures were higher than today. Additionally, the assumption that carbon dioxide causes warming is false. Changes in global temperature precede changes in carbon dioxide levels by about 800 years. Carbon dioxide cannot be the cause if it follows its presumed effect. Finally, humans produce a tiny percentage of total carbon dioxide emissions. Volcanoes,

animal flatulence, and rotting vegetation all contribute heavily to carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Humans account for about 4% of total carbon dioxide emissions, and carbon dioxide makes up about 0.38% of the atmosphere. Our effect on Earth's climate is extremely minimal. (See the British documentary, *The Great Global Warming Swindle*.)

Despite their erroneous science, environmentalists have been extremely successful in proselytizing their faith. They've convinced Americans to sacrifice at the altar of Mother Gaia, and they have turned the already ignoble state into an even uglier beast—their church, the effector of their religious goals. If allowed to continue, they'll destroy the American economy and doom billions of people in developing countries to perpetual poverty. Secularists are quick to call for a wall of separation between church and state. It is time that environmentalism be held to the same standard. ●



JOHN M. OSTROWSKI is a senior in journalism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He blogs at: <http://ultramontane.townhall.com>



religion that permeates much of everyday life. But consider that environmentalists demand daily religious-like sacrifices from people. Recycling is subsidized by government in order to save money and energy by turning waste into usable products. But if recycling effected such economic savings, there'd be no need for

environmentalism is human-centered. Yes, in its purest form, it is Earth worship, its reverence directed at something non-human. But the tenets of the faith concern humans and their role in natural history. Humans are the problem, and the solution requires some bane to humanity. This is why

tools. We've endured warnings about overpopulation, nuclear holocausts, and global climate disaster. And like the apocalyptic predictions of other religions, those of environmentalism have never come to pass. But people have short memories, and fear is a powerful persuasive tool. By the time it is clear that

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■ Building the Party

Libertarians Make a Good Showing at JSA Convention

Some half dozen libertarians volunteered to service the Libertarian Party booth at the biannual Junior State of America (JSA) convention at the Santa Clara Marriott on April 28, 2007. The three-

The LP had four tables of literature and buttons, compared to one each for other participants

day event attracted over 1,000 high school students with an interest in political science.

Over twenty organizations had set up booths, including

animal rights activists, the Green Party, the Christian Coalition, the John Birch Society, and a group distributing condoms. The LP had four tables of literature, books, and buttons, compared to one table each for the other participants. This is because the LP helped revive the JSA political fair over five years ago, and has since gotten preferential treatment.

Volunteers at the Libertarian Party booth included **Kevin Takenaga, Lawrence K. Samuels, Travis Griffiths, Starchild, TJ Campbell, and Richard Newell.**

For more information see: www.JSA.org ●

• **Starchild (center) helps students at the LP booth at last year's Junior State of America convention.**



Photo: L.K. Samuels

■ Building the Party

Youth Outreach in Classrooms

by **Robert Page**

Treasurer, Placer County LP

Twice a year, a Placer County Elections Department representative visits civics, economics, and history high school classes to lecture students on the importance of voting. This program has been in place for the last 12-13 years.

Political parties are also invited to attend. Each party has five minutes to explain their platform, followed by several

minutes of Q&A. After everyone has spoken, voter registration cards are distributed.

Voila! Just like that, we're given the chance to address some eighty impressionable young minds and ask them to become Libertarians. And if they can't make that leap of faith, then at least encourage them to register "Decline to State" and not support political parties seeking to enslave them to a national debt created by government funding for so many unconstitutional "benefits."



The Placer County Elections Department has been very successful in getting 18-to-21-year-olds to the polls, so theirs is an influential program. I suggest that LP leaders in other counties approach their local election departments and explain the benefits of adopting similar programs. ●

ROBERT PAGE is Treasurer for the Placer County Libertarian Party. His email: rpagemg@netscape.net.

■ Building the Party

Welcome, New American!

by **Dan Fernandes**

LP of Los Angeles County

Every two months, the Fairplex in Pomona hosts a naturalization ceremony where more than 5,000 immigrants take an oath to become new American citizens. This is a joyous occasion, written on people's faces as they exit the Fairplex gates.

As they exit, they pass through a "Free Information Zone" where political parties can distribute literature. Republicans and Democrats are always there. But third party attendance is spotty.

Our Libertarian "Welcome, New American" Outreach Project will correct that.

New Americans are curious about what political parties have to offer and are eager to accept literature. It's a perfect time to give them our best shot. And our best shot is good indeed. Take a look of the LP's beautiful outreach pamphlet, *A New Vision for America*, at www.LPstuff.com.

Apart from distributing pamphlets, we address people who have questions about our party. And it's not all work. You'll have fun meeting interesting people. I've talked to people from Iran, Albania, Turkey, and Iraq. Each has a story that makes you thankful for America.

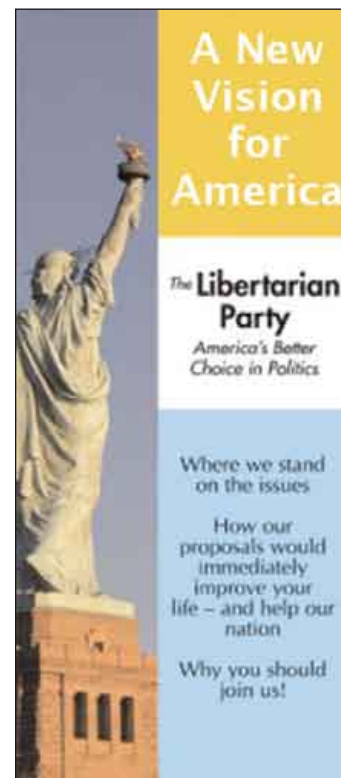
For a ceremony schedule go to www.Fairplex.com, click on Calendar, and then search Naturalization for the next ceremony. And if you don't live



near Pomona, or even in Los Angeles County—no problem! With a little research on the internet, you should be able to find an immigrant "swearing in ceremony" center near you. ●

New Americans are curious about what political parties have to offer and are eager to accept literature

DAN FERNANDES is Region 67 Representative for the Los Angeles County LP, in East San Gabriel Valley. He has also served on the LPC Program Committee. He ran for California State Senate in 2004. Contact info at: DanFernandes.com.



• The LP's pamphlet called *A New Vision for America* is available as a free download or can be ordered from www.LPstuff.com

Shopping for a home?

Tap into the Libertarian Network of Realtors and help boost income to the LPC!

Longtime Libertarian and Chair of Calaveras County Libertarians, Al Segalla, with his 25 years of experience as a Realtor, has created a way for you to work with Libertarian Realtors while benefiting the LPC. It's a Libertarian Realty Network! As directed by you, their Libertarian customer, Network Realtors will donate 20% of their Network commissions to the LPC or any other Libertarian cause you endorse.

Tap in! Visit www.BambiLand.com/NetWork.html

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

Albert J. Segalla, Realtor
Chair, LP of Calaveras County



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■ News You Can Use

Tap Into the Power of Endorsements



by John Briscoe

Trustee, Ocean View School District

Endorsements are a powerful tool in gaining immediate credibility and support. Many people automatically vote for a candidate who is endorsed by a sitting elected official they already support. Endorsements from local members of Congress or city mayors can be especially potent, because voters have already selected them to win in prior elections. One "winner" can lead to another. Newspaper endorsements are also known to sway voters.

Endorsements *must* be obtained or confirmed in writing. A direct letter from the endorser to the candidate is best. However, emails will suffice. Even an email from a trusted third party intermediary can suffice. But verbal "over the phone" endorsements should only be used when the candi-

date knows the endorser personally and there is no risk of reversal. Ask for the elected official's signature on your candidate "endorsement signature card" at the time of agreement.

Elected Official Endorsements

Start *early*. Several weeks before filing. Earlier if possible. Make a list with all contact information of all local elected officials, including city council, county supervisor, state assembly and senate, and U.S. Congressional members. Local sewer, water, and vector boards do not typically carry much weight with voters.

Send a personal letter to the official with your campaign literature, so they may understand your positions on the issues, and ask them for their



endorsement with a pre-written letter that they merely have to sign. Include a self addressed & stamped return envelope. Make it easy for them to help you.

Call the office to confirm receipt of your letter. Talk directly to the endorser if possible. Elected state and US Congress officials have taxpayer-paid staff who cannot work on political election activities, so if you don't receive a reply, it may be due to the prohibition of administrative staff working on election matters.

Don't get angry if nobody responds to your requests. Get busy! Find a third party intermediary in the political party who can be your "go-to" person to penetrate the organization and get your endorsement.

Remember, endorsers can endorse more than one candidate. Get support before your opponent decides to run. Ascertain if, and who, your potential endorsers have already endorsed. **START EARLY!**

The bottom line is simple. The more endorsements from sitting elected officials you obtain, the more votes you'll get.

Newspaper Endorsements

Make a list of *all* local newspapers that cover any part of your district. Cast a wide net in your search. There are many local "legal publication" newspapers that publish weekly and

Many people automatically vote for a candidate who is endorsed by a sitting elected official they already support

are distributed free or for a nominal annual fee. With the dominance of large regional papers, these small weeklies are often the only local content papers available.

Regardless of size, every single newspaper endorsement is important, and adds credibility to the candidate.

Prominent Community Leader Endorsements

Don't ignore *former* school board and city council officials who might provide endorsements. Make a list of them. Any local PTA presidents or community activists that are widely known and respected should be included. Phone these folks to quickly create a list of several, or even dozens, who will endorse you.

In making your list of former officials, focus your energies on those who likely still have high voter recognition.

Publish all your endorsements wherever space permits. Otherwise, cull them down to the most significant endorsements, for quick voter recognition. Congressional and state assembly endorsements are among the most influential. ●

JOHN BRISCOE, a Libertarian from Orange County, was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District in 2006. He also spoke at the 2007 LPC Convention, in a panel of elected officials. Contact info at: www.Vote4Briscoe.com

■ Volunteers Needed

June 26 Special Election

Herb Peters is the Libertarian candidate for Long Beach's 37th Congressional District in a special election to be held on June 26. The election is to fill the vacancy created by Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald's death last April.

Peters has previously campaigned for this seat, and thus already has some name recognition with local media and voters.

Volunteers may contact Peters through: www.HerbPeters.com ●



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Indie Film

continued from page 1

the dam. "That was basically me acknowledging, you guys didn't get me."

Despite his portrayal of law enforcement as heroic and well-intentioned (albeit inept), Schulman was poorly treated by the government. "We come along with a movie in which the feds are the good guys, and the Department of Homeland Security would not give us any cooperation. We went to the FBI building [in Nevada] to get some exteriors on a Sunday, when the place is closed. They sent out a security guard to try to arrest us. We have it on film. That will probably be part of the DVD extras."

Schulman's experience with the FBI mirrors that of actress Rosario Dawson, who was arrested by NYPD while filming the dramatic feature, *This Revolution*, during the August 2004 anti-GOP protest. Dawson was arrested because she wore a mask (in the role of her character), in violation of New York's anti-mask law. Her arrest by NYPD is likewise part

of *This Revolution's* DVD extras.

Principal photography on *Lady Magdalene's* ended in June 2006. Post-production was completed in spring 2007. Now Schulman is running a grass-

Despite its libertarian content, Schulman denies making a political statement

roots marketing campaign to build word-of-mouth, even as he seeks a distribution deal. On April 12, 2007, he test-screened his 117 minute "final cut" to a libertarian-friendly audience at the NRA's Culver City chapter.

"I'm a past president of this chapter," said Schulman.



• **Filmmaker J. Neil Schulman**

"It's our first chance to show the film to non-industry people in a no-pressure environment." After the screening, questionnaires were distributed to an enthusiastic crowd. "I'll be looking at their comments for an idea of how to market the film," said Schulman. "I'll shape the marketing accordingly."

Schulman has begun to submit *Lady Magdalene's* to film festivals. Yet despite its libertarian content, Schulman denies making a political statement. "There is very little politically correct about *Lady Magdalene's*, [yet at the same time] I was trying to skate as near the edge as possible, without making the film unsaleable. Anyone finding a political message in this film is just out to make trouble."

Schulman's 1984 science fiction novel, *The Rainbow Cadenza*, won a Prometheus Award from the Libertarian Futurist Society. His 1999 gun rights manifesto, *Stopping Power*, has been praised by no less than Charlton Heston. ●

J. NEIL SCHULMAN may be contacted through: www.LadyMagdalenes.com

■ Because Ideas Matter

Iraq and the Roots of War

by **L. K. Samuels**

Libertarians for Peace

March 19 marked the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by U.S. forces. Across California and the United States, thousands of demonstrators mourned this event with peace rallies, funeral marches, and speeches. Like many concerned citizens, I organized and participated in several peace rallies in the Monterey area. These rallies represented a wide coalition of groups and ideas, ranging from labor activists, Democrats, Quakers, and United Nations associations to libertarians. But when I delved deeper into why my fellow peace activists were protesting, I discovered that they know little about the causes of war.

The war in Iraq is no different from most wars, except that it has striking similarities to the Napoleonic wars. Fought across continental Europe in the early 1800s, these series of wars were allegedly fought to liberate the people from their oppressors.



Napoleon repeatedly cited his intentions to replace kings and the nobility with liberty, equality, and fraternity. There was only one problem. The people in adjacent foreign lands did not want to be liberated and referred to the invading Napoleon as the bogeyman. The only revolutionary idea that Napoleon gave to Europe was adding propaganda to the arsenal of war.

The Bush administration is chanting the same mantra in Iraq, arguing that American troops are there to secure a stable democracy. Like Napoleon's forces, American troops are involved in nation-building to "liberate" the Iraqis and provide them with the tools of democracy, even though Iraq has never had a democratic government in its 7,000-year history, or possessed any grassroots movements advancing the concept of liberty.

So what is the root cause of war? Some sociologists point to the authoritarian attitudes

of those who believe they are right, everyone else is wrong, and everyone must do as they command. This rigid mindset of one's own moral superiority permits ruling systems to engage in armed conflicts around the world and to commit all sorts of atrocities. Of course, any resulting collateral damage is considered acceptable because the war is being waged for a good cause.

Most wars are an affront to individual rights. When the few can command the many to do their murderous bidding, small conflicts tend to magnify into large ones. The concentration of power provides authorities with the collective means to execute their do-good pet policies. That is because most world leaders have succumbed to the Machiavellian notion that "the ends justify the means," contending that any violent act—murder, robbery, and so forth—is permissible providing that the end goal is a "greater good." And under this greater-good nostrum, the public often accepts the government's argument that war is peace, that

"...taxes were not raised to carry on wars, but that wars were raised to carry on taxes."
— Thomas Paine

freedom is slavery, and that invading a foreign nation with a preemptive strike is a defense maneuver.

As Randolph Bourne wrote in 1918, "War is the health of the state." Government thrives off war and the hysteria it spawns. Without such conflicts, the authorities could not justify increased spying on citizens and suspension of citizens' rights.

The true culprit for war is a staunch belief in the infallibility of governmental power

Government needs war the way a heroin addict needs drugs. They need it to justify increasing taxes and expanding debt and to inflame nationalistic fervor. Governments need foreign devils and unstable conditions to prop up sagging popularity and economic policies. Even Thomas Paine recognized this truism in *The Rights of Man*, writing that "taxes were not raised to carry on wars, but that wars were raised to carry on taxes."

But the true culprit for war is a staunch belief in the infallibility of governmental power. To accept the legitimacy of the state is to embrace the necessity for war. For thousands of years, governments have been the quintessential war machine. If given the means, they tirelessly prepare for armed conflict with foreign and domestic opponents. They seek to protect their status, their authority, and their right to rule over others, creating an *us* versus *them* environment.

Conflict and war are the greatest threat to human liberty, life, and property. And a policy of perpetual war and nation-building eventually turns peaceful republics into violent empires.

The best road to peace is to allow citizens to structure their own lives as they see fit. When citizens are denied freedom, conflict flares and war is not far behind. Only a small, unobtrusive government can reduce intrasocietal and foreign conflict. Only an open society, in which citizens freely choose their own personal and economic lifestyles, can ensure a peaceful way of life. ●

This article first appeared in *The Libertarian Perspective* op-ed series.

David R. Henderson's brief address at the Monterey banquet honoring Congressman Sam Farr for his peace activities is reprinted below courtesy of Antiwar.com.

If you read the *Monterey Herald* closely, you might be surprised to see me standing here to say nice things about Sam Farr. It is true that Sam and I have had our differences. He thinks price controls on new housing will make housing affordable; I, like most economists, think price controls on new housing will discourage construction, making housing less affordable.

But we've also had our agreements. Sam voted for NAFTA, which brought down barriers to imports from Mexico and Canada, making goods more affordable, and brought down Canadian and Mexican barriers to U.S. exports, benefiting our exporting industries. Sam also voted in 2005 for an important protection of property rights, namely, for permanent repeal of the death tax. Had this passed, it would have allowed people to keep what is rightfully theirs. Sam also has been a leader, along with my Republican congressman friend, Dana Rohrabacher, in the fight to get the federal government to stop interfering with people who want to use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

That's not all. Sam also has been a strong defender of civil liberties. He showed a lot of courage, not just in voting against the extension of the USA PATRIOT Act, but also in voting, shortly after September 11, against the original USA PATRIOT Act. He was one of only 66 members of the House of Representatives to do so. Not for him that mealy-mouthed line, "I voted against it before I voted for it." Sam was always against it, and bless you, Sam, for that.

Had that been all Sam had done, we wouldn't be here tonight. We are here because of two other things Sam has done, one in 2002 and one this year. In 2002, Sam



showed a healthy skepticism about George Bush's "I'm the President: trust me" approach to foreign policy. Sam voted against the blank check that Congress gave George Bush to make war on Iraqis.

And on January 11 this year, Sam did something even more important. He authored a bill, beautiful in its clarity and brevity, to remove George Bush's authority to make war in Iraq.

Let me read you a section of the bill:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REPEAL OF PUBLIC LAW 107-243.

The Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Public Law 107-243; 50 U.S.C. 1541 note) is hereby repealed.

SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM IRAQ.

The President of the United States shall provide for the withdrawal of units and members of the United States Armed Forces deployed in Iraq as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom in a safe and orderly manner.

Guess what? I didn't read you a *section* of Sam's bill. I read you the *whole* bill. I've read parts of congressmen's bills before, but in my whole life I've read only a few bills all the way through and doing so took hours. How refreshing that Sam said so much with so little, in the best tradition of our Founding Fathers, whose First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protected religious freedom, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the right to peaceably assemble, and the right to petition with only 45 words. Sam's bill is a better bill than any of the other bills on the war that Congress is considering.

The cause of peace is the most important issue facing our nation today. We have far too many people, in Congress and out, who are willing to trust a powerful president. For your leadership on this issue, I say, "Thank you, Sam." ●

Anti-War Events

continued from page 1

The event was sponsored by the Peace Coalition of Monterey County, of which Libertarians for Peace is a member. Two ministers, three drummers, and six black-painted cardboard coffins (one draped with an American flag) shepherded the march.

The following month, on

- **Congressman Sam Farr (below) was honored with a peace award.**

April 28, Libertarians for Peace co-sponsored a rally in Monterey calling for the impeachment of President George W. Bush.

L. K. SAMUELS co-chairs his local Libertarians for Peace with Professor David R. Henderson. Libertarians for Peace is a caucus, not an official body of the LPC. Samuels is an At-Large member of the LPC's Executive Committee. He has served as Chair of the Monterey County LP, and as LPC Northern California Vice-Chair. His email: lawsamz@hotmail.com.

Photo courtesy of L.K. Samuels



■ News You Can Use

GPS Eases Signature Gathering

by Norm Westwell

Trustee, Ocean View SD

Signature gathering to get onto the ballot is a tedious and labor intensive affair, one that dissuades many candidates from even running. Fortunately, the burden of signature gathering is lessened with DeLorme mapping software.



Fig. 1. Overview of district

I first used DeLorme in my 2004 race for an assembly seat in Huntington Beach (Assembly District 67). The candidate first creates a spreadsheet with the addresses of all registered Libertarians within his or her chosen district. This spread-



sheet data is then entered into DeLorme. DeLorme will create a geographic map that highlights all registered Libertarians in that district (see green flags in fig. 1). This map makes it easier both to locate your signature prospects and plan the shortest route to hitting them all.

But wait, DeLorme offers still more advantages!

I did much of my signature gathering after work. Often after sundown. If you've ever searched for a residential street address, in an unfamiliar neighborhood, after dark, well, you know how difficult that can be.



Fig. 2. Neighborhood details

House address numbers aren't always conveniently located, much less illuminated, so that they can be seen from a passing car. It is both frustrating and time-consuming to search for those worn-off street numbers painted on sidewalks, in the dark of night.

But DeLorme has the solution! DeLorme can be hooked up to a GPS receiver. With my trusty GPS, I didn't need to see the house numbers. My GPS told me exactly when I was in front of the right house (see fig. 2).

With DeLorme, I gathered 135 signatures, all by my lonesome. All those signatures were obtained through direct personal contact. For many registered Libertarians, I was their first contact with someone from the Party—and they were delighted that I came by! I'd initiated direct, personal relationships with actively-voting Libertarians who crave to help in non-monetary ways. I recruited four new candidates for City Council during my signature gathering. And I culled the rolls of non-locatable members. One third of my initial

What's the Latest?

For the latest activities, discussion groups, meetings, parties, and demonstrations of the Libertarian Party of California, and to link to your local region's site, visit our web site:

www.CA.LP.org



list of registered Libertarians turned out to be inaccurate.

With what I learned throughout my signature gathering, I kept updating the map and database in my DeLorme. I drew city,

For many registered Libertarians, I was their first contact with someone from the Party—and they were delighted that I came by!

school, and Assembly boundaries. On the map, I marked the best locations for signs. I marked locations where I had

permission for signs, where permission was expressly denied, where I had placed signs, and whether it was a large or a small sign. This data is reusable for all future elections. And I can pass this data on to other candidates.

My one-time costs were \$100 for the DeLorme software, and \$100 for the GPS receiver. However, DeLorme will give us a discount on multiple packages. They can even customize the software for our specific requirements. I recommend each county LP obtain a copy of this software, or something like it.

Details on this software may be found at: www.DeLorme.com. The software is also available through Amazon.com and other retail outlets. ●

In 2006 NORM "FIRECRACKER" WESTWELL was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Ocean View School District. His email: normw@modernpublic.com.

Libertarian Party of California

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Photo courtesy of L. K. Samuels



• A shoe for each child killed in the Iraq War
Story on pages 1 and 7

INSIDE

First column from new LPC Chair **2**

Church of Gaia gaining foothold in government **4**

New citizen ceremonies good places for outreach **5**

Tap into the power of endorsements **6**

Roots of war same as those of tyranny **7**