



Santa Clara Libertarian

May, 1993

Volume 21, Number 5

Be wary of strong drink. It can make you shoot at tax collectors—and miss.
—in Time Enough For Love, by Robert A. Heinlein

Libertarians Do It Again

by Eric Harlow

The happy few

David Bonino
Chuck Christ
Don Cormier
Chris Evansen
Alan Furman
Bob Goodwyn
Eric Gustifson
Eric Harlow
Al Hinkle
Helen Hinkle
Alan Hoffman
Alan Hoffman, Jr.
John Inks
Johnny Klonaris
Al Newman
Peter Paulij
Jon Petersen
Marianne Petersen
Matt Singh
Jim Switz
John Webster
Ed Wimmers

Tax Day exposure of Libertarian ideas went down without a hitch once more. More than 17 Libertarians were out in force Thursday, April 15th at post offices in Santa Clara County, handing out our “newly” redesigned card.

The weather was blustery and cold while our crew stood watch. Over 7000 cards were given out. Many of our workers found lots of fun and purpose in direct contact with the voters. Some call this “stumping the voters”. Some who might at other times be a bit timid or shy discovered a “different out-going self”. Being Libertarian can at times bring new rewards.

Do we do any good? Yes. Knowledge is power and we gave some of that power to unsuspecting citizens who might now move to a new awareness of who their real

enemy is: the bloated government they support with their taxes.

Talking About Schools

by Jon Petersen

ExCEL, sponsor of the Parental Choice in Education initiative, wants to educate the public about it. They also want to raise money. They use their newsletter to do both.

The more subscribers they have, the better they do, so ExCEL made us (and others) a deal. A newsletter subscription is \$10. We keep \$5 for each one we sell, and send to subscriber's name and address with the other \$5 to ExCEL. That's it, plain and simple.

We would love to give you a commission out of our \$5, but the election laws forbid that. However, we can give you a one year membership extension for selling ten subscriptions.

Subscribers will receive newsletters through the June 7, 1994 election. A copy of the February 1993 issue is enclosed with an order form added. Make copies and pass out samples if you wish. Print your name on the order form as a representative before you make copies if you wish to be acknowledged as the seller.

Save Our Liberties

by Eric Harlow

Save Our Liberties has been advancing the cause of liberties by waging peace against the so-called war on drugs. The latest effort is the resolution signed at the Hoover Institute in late February.

This resolution calls for medical and social solutions, not criminal justice solutions, and for the President and congress to immediately empower a commission to recommend revisions of the drug laws of these United States in order to reduce the harm our current policies are causing.

S.O.L. is requesting that interested people sign and send copies of the Hoover Resolution, and has created a colorful “End the Drug War” stamp (like Easter seals) to be used on envelopes.

For a copy of the Hoover Resolution, and more information, you may contact me at 415 964-3655.

International Society for Individual Liberty

Vince Miller, head of the ISIL will be the featured speaker at the the May 20th business meeting. His position with ISIL gives him an exceptionally good perspective on the international achievements of Libertarians, which often surpass the accomplishments in this country.

Cornered (and apologizing)

by the editors

In the April newsletter we made a dreadful typo. In the Calendar of Events, in the announcement for the North County Discussion Group, we wrote “... who is interested in Libertarian dies.” We're mortified with embarrassment. We wish we had written “... who is interested in Libertarian ideas.” May we blame it on our spelling checker?

Amendment 2 A well-regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Libertarian in Print

This letter appeared in the March 24, 1993 edition of the San Jose Mercury News.

Look at the intent of Second Amendment

William G. Bosworth's suggestion that we disarm our citizenry again (Letters, March 16) shows how ignorant the anti-gunners are on our founding fathers' reasons for the Second Amendment.

The primary and most important reason for this amendment was to ensure that our government would never have a total monopoly on power; that is, to empower the citizens with the ability to defend their liberties and freedoms from any and all abusive governments.

Their secondary reason behind granting us the right to bear arms was to empower law-abiding citizens with the means for defending their lives and property from any and all assailants.

To date, gun control has failed to make any measurable reduction in violent crime while the courts and legislatures have decreed that the police can not be held liable for their failing to defend lives and property. Obviously, today's only winners are the violent criminals. Johann Opitz, San Jose

"The artisans, and the husbandmen, and the warriors, all have a share in the government. But the husbandmen have no arms, and the artisans neither arms nor land, and therefore they become all but slaves of the warrior class. That they should share in all the offices is an impossibility; for generals and guardians of the citizens, and nearly all the principal magistrates, must be taken from the class of those who carry arms. Yet, if the two other classes have no share in the government, how can they be loyal citizens? It may be said that those who have arms must necessarily be masters of both the other classes, but this is not so easily accomplished unless they are numerous; and if they are, why should the other classes share in the government at all, or have power to appoint magistrates?"

—from *Politics*, by Aristotle (384—322 B.C.)

The Thirsty Tree

by Sam Aurelius Milam III

The intent of the Second Amendment must be understood from its language as written, and not from what people wish it said. As written, the Second Amendment utilized the right to keep and bear arms as a way to assure the existence of a regulated militia. The purpose of the militia was to protect the security of the State. Therefore, the ultimate objective of the Second Amendment was to protect the security of the State.

During the debate over the adoption of the Constitution, James Madison warned the people of undue reliance upon the "mere demarcation on parchment of the constitutional limits". When the Second Amendment was adopted and people began to rely upon it for the existence of the right to keep and bear arms, that right was doomed, for surely eternal vigilance cannot be delegated. The ordering of priorities which placed the right to keep and bear arms under the jurisdiction of a regulated institution converted that right into a privilege and effectively abrogated the right. The fact is that rights do not originate in the Constitution. They spring from the customary behavior of the people. Today, the keeping and bearing of arms is regulated according to its perceived effect upon the security of the State. Such regulation is entirely consistent with the intent of the Second Amendment, as revealed by its language.

There are few reasons for armed citizens, but foremost among those reasons is government. Indeed, lacking armed citizens, any guarantee made by government expires after the ink is dry. The irony (and the ignominy) of walking past a metal detector to bring a gun-rights case into court proves how far the situation has deteriorated. Thomas Jefferson (among others) understood that the Tree of Liberty isn't nourished by the ink of politicians, but by the blood of patriots and especially by the blood of tyrants. The only way to have the right is to exercise it.

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School Taxes Opposed

by Jon Petersen

There are two school tax measures coming up in June. Measure A would let the Orchard School District issue \$20 million in bonds. Measure B would impose an \$80 per year tax on each parcel in the Berryessa Union School District. We intend to oppose both measures actively this year.

In the past we wrote ballot arguments against such measures, but didn't do much else. Once again our arguments have been accepted, but this time we won't leave it at that.

The Orchard School District is small, with about 400 students and 2700 voters. It wouldn't cost us much to mail a slick flyer to each voter, and that would have a definite impact. This is the third time around for this bond proposal. It was defeated in 1990 and 1992. It would be nice to really squash it this year. They might quit trying if the NO votes are overwhelming this year. (Well, we can dream, can't we?)

The Berryessa Union School District is quite large, with 13 schools and 32,000 voters. We will target only those likely to vote, but it won't be easy. The district is going all out to pass Measure B. They beat up our allied local opposition in court, striking the rebuttal argument from the ballot pamphlet. Adding injury to insult, the lawyer for the group cost \$2240, and the winning lawyer expects \$6600 from the losers. This one is already rough, likely to be tough, and will definitely cost money. Are we up to it?


Naturally, money will be needed for these efforts. We will not use any regular Party funds for them; only money contributed to oppose Measures A and B. Make your donation payable to "LP of Santa Clara County: NO on A/B", 3249 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 207, San Jose, California 95117.




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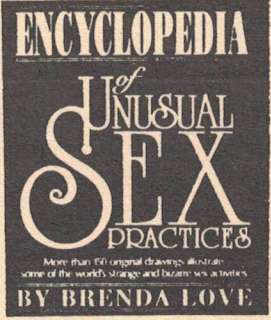
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3249 Stevens Creek Boulevard, Suite 207
San Jose, California 95117
408 243-2711

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

Signature _____ Date _____
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Basic Membership \$25
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 I wish to pledge \$ _____ per month
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TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Calendar of Events

Mid-County Discussion Group (Sunnyvale)

Wednesday, May 12, 7:00-9:30 P.M. (second Wednesday)

These meetings are for anyone who wants to learn about libertarian ideas. Coco's Restaurant, 1209 Oakmead Parkway (at Lawrence Expressway, 1 block south of 101).

North County Discussion Group (Mountain View)

Thursday, May 27, 7:00-9:30 P.M.(fourth Thursday)

Harry's Hofbrau, 399 W. El Camino Real

LPSC Business Meeting (Sunnyvale)

Thursday, May 20 (third Thursday)

Dinner—7:00 P.M.; Meeting—8-10 P.M.

Guest speaker is **Vince Miller**, head of the ISIL. Come to Coco's Restaurant, 1209 Oakmead Parkway.

Save Our Liberties Meeting (Mountain View)

Thursday, May 13, 7:30-9:30 P.M.(second Thursday)

Location: Mountain View Community Center, 201 S. Rengstorff Avenue. For More information, call S.O.L. at 415 964-3655

Libertarian Hike (East Bay)

Second Saturday in May

For details, contact Bob Russell at 510 937-8380

Libertarian Party Party (Hosted by Terry Savage)

Saturday, May 15, 7 PM, BYOB

3021 Via Montez, near Capital & Cropley

For information call 408 955-1275 or 408 441-1913

Santa Clara Libertarian

This newsletter is the monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, a non-profit organization. A membership application may be found in this issue. Interested persons may contact our office or visit one of our scheduled meetings (listed in the Calendar of Events) for more information. You may also log onto the Liberty Bell BBS at 408 243-1933, or send comments to newsletter editor Donald Cormier at 439 S. White Road, San Jose, California 95151. (408) 254-2746

Why you received this newsletter

If you're a dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County, you'll receive this newsletter every month. We also mail it to people who we'd like to join the party.

If your mailing label says *Valued Prospective Member*, you asked for information about Libertarianism, and this newsletter is part of our reply; you have a 3-month complimentary subscription. We hope you'll register to vote Libertarian and become a dues-paying member.

If your mailing label says *Valued Former Member*, you were previously a dues-paying member, and we want you back! The newsletter is a reminder of what you're missing.

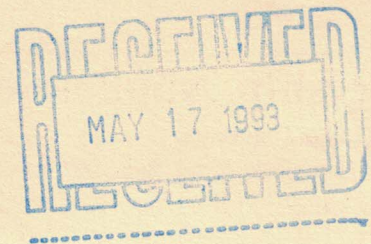
If you've registered to vote Libertarian but are not a member, you'll also receive the newsletter. In this case your mailing label is in all capital letters. You've taken the first steps, and we encourage you to become more fully involved in helping us spread libertarian principles.

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California Teachers Association Takes out Loan to Fight Parental Choice

ExCEL reported last month that the powerful California Teachers Association (CTA), is assessing each of their 230,000 members a \$19 fee to fund their campaign against the Amendment even though many teachers favor the Parental Choice Amendment. It has since been learned that the CTA has taken out a *three-year loan on future fees* to be collected and will spend in excess of \$13 million.

*Don't be discouraged—with your help,
we can win!*

Well-funded campaigns do not always win. Remember Prop. 103? The insurance rate roll-back initiative won despite more than \$20 million spent by the insurance companies to defeat it. Voters understand what great lengths special interest groups will go in order protect their turf.

Amendment Questions & Answers:

How Much Education Can a Voucher Buy?

A recent survey by the Southwest Regional Laboratory (SWRL) found that most private schools in the state are affordable. "Most schools willing to accept students with vouchers from public schools are affordable; 62 percent charge \$2,600 per year, the amount of California's proposed voucher," SWRL's survey said. ExCEL's own survey of private school tuitions reveals that the average tuition for K-8 grade schools charge an average of \$1,800 per year, while grades 9-12 schools charge between \$2,600-\$3,000 per year.

Will Private Schools Face New Regulations as a Result?

No . . . the Amendment limits new regulation of private schools and participating public schools to the level in effect at private schools as of October 1, 1991.

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is ExCEL's third newsletter discussing issues pertaining to the Parental Choice in Education Amendment which has qualified for the June 1994 ballot.

To help us, we encourage you to make as many copies of this newsletter and distribute it to your friends. ExCEL can provide you additional copies if needed. Also, if you could, a \$25 contribution to ExCEL to offset the production costs would be appreciated.

Your suggestions for future discussions are also welcome.

KEVIN TEASLEY, EDITOR

Any new regulation of private schools requires a three-fourths vote of the state Legislature or a two-thirds vote of a local governing body and a majority of all persons registered to vote in an election—uniquely tough standards. These standards are more protective of private schools than the current standards—where a mere majority of these governmental bodies can regulate private schools.

Can Competition Work?

It already is. Today, as a result of the Amendment being qualified for the June 1994 ballot, public school officials are moving faster than ever to reform the public schools. Governor Wilson signed legislation allowing 100 public schools to create their own charter

(he now wants the plan to be expanded to all schools). Fresno and San Francisco Unified School Districts have introduced public school choice plans, and officials in Los Angeles are discussing breaking up the state's largest school district.

Every official behind their respective reform effort openly admits that it is because of the Amendment being on the ballot that they are suggesting their reform measure. They are afraid that if they don't do something now, the voters will approve the Amendment in 1994.

What they don't understand is that we need a system which *constantly* seeks excellence—not just when an initiative is on the ballot, and we need a system which can meet the needs of the two million additional students expected in the state's schools by the year 2000.

The Amendment provides solutions!

A 1992 Reason Foundation poll of Los Angeles parents found 52 percent in favor of providing \$2,600 to parents to allow children to attend a private or parochial school; nearly 70 percent of Afro-Americans polled favor the plan.

An HBO poll in June 1992 found 88 percent of Afro-Americans nationwide favor choice programs which include private and parochial schools; and an Associated Press poll released in September 1992 said that 73 percent of all families with an income of \$25,000 or less supported a federally-funded voucher program.

What Political Parties Support the Amendment?

A poll by a Los Angeles research group found that 65.7 percent of the state's Democrats and 72.2 percent of the state's Republicans support the Amendment; 68 percent of the state's independent voters support the Amendment.

Stop Sneaking Your Children Into School

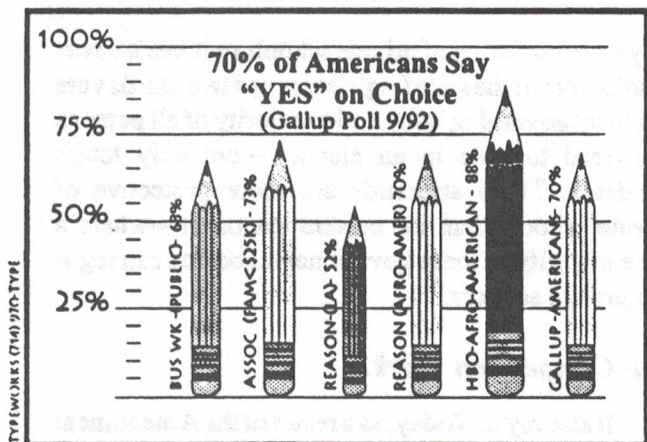
Join ExCEL

Over the past year, several news stories have been written about parents 'sneaking' their children into better public schools by reporting false addresses and phone numbers to schools. The Parental Choice in Education Amendment will allow you the opportunity to get your child into the school of your choice without 'sneaking'.

For more information about the Amendment, please call ExCEL at (310) 416-9601.

What do the Polls Say?

A September 1992 Gallup survey found 70 percent of Americans support a voucher program which includes private and parochial schools.



A September 14, 1992 Business Week/Harris poll found 68 percent of the public agreed that children should be able to attend any school they qualify for (including public, private and parochial).

REPRESENTATIVE

Yes, ExCEL, keep me informed.
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