



Santa Clara Libertarian

Volume 32, Issue 4 April 2004

News of Local Libertarians' Efforts and Feats

Celebrity Stossel to Speak at SJSU

On May 13, the Economics Department of San Jose State University will host a free lecture by libertarian celebrity, author, and investigative journalist **John Stossel**.

Titled "Freedom and Its Enemies," the talk is part of the university's **David S. Saurman Provocative Lecture Series**, and Stossel sure fills the bill.

"Liberty," says Stossel, "is what made America great, yet little by little, Americans are giving up that liberty." Stossel talks about the amazing benefits of individ-

**Hear John Stossel at SJSU
Freedom and Its Enemies
May 13, 2004, 5:45 – 7:45 P.M.
SJSU Morris Dailey Auditorium**

ual freedom and free markets, and what he has learned in his 30-year journey from Portland, Oregon consumer reporter to his current role as co-anchor of ABC's *20/20*.

He discusses: Who are today's American heroes? Has our fear of technology led us to reject the very freedom that has lifted more people out of poverty than any society anywhere, ever? Might safety regulations actually injure more people than they protect?

■ See **Stossel** page 3

Stay in the LP Loop

We love to meet new members at LPSCC's monthly meetings! They're held in the evening on each second Thursday, alternating between business meetings and speaker/discussion meetings. Invite your friends to speaker's meetings! Help sate their curiosity about libertarian solutions to their pet peeve about government. Next meetings:

Thursday, May 13: Speaker (TBD)
Thursday, June 8: Business

Meetings are usually held in Sunnyvale at **Coco's Restaurant**. The venue and other details are subject to change, so be sure to check the LPSCC web site to confirm, at www.SC.CA.LP.org. ■

■ Coalition Building

SJ Mercury Featured LPSCC Supporting Area 420 at Outdoor "Pot" Luck

by **Michael Laursen**
State Assembly Candidate, District 13
with Contributor **Jim Lohse**

An estimated 40 or 50 people ignored the clouds of April 18 to attend the "pot" luck barbecue put on medical marijuana distributor **Area 420**—named partly for Senate Bill 420. The event, held at Stevens Creek County Park, was a "clean" event, with only legitimate, pre-registered patients being permitted to smoke pot.



Allen Rice, LP candidate for State Senate, District 11, shared the fallacy of the current practice of district gerrymandering.

Candidates from all parties were invited, but only Libertarian Party candidates **Zander Collier**, **Allen Rice**, and I attended. Addressing the crowd—which reached 60 for the two o'clock speaker panel and prize giveaway—were **Jim Lohse**, the organizer, and a man who runs a medical marijuana cooperative in San Francisco. Both were very gracious to us Libertarian candidates, and seemed to respect us candidates for being there and demonstrating our support for their efforts.

Barbara Feder Ostrov, the *San Jose Mercury News* medical reporter, covered the event. Her story appeared on April 19, headlined "Picnic for Pot Draws Crows," and garnering a spot on page one of the newspaper's B section, "The Valley."

Henry Dominguez, of Barrios Unidos,

made a special appearance. The *Mercury* coverage featured a photo of his daughter, **Lupita**, and him. He's the patient—not Lupita. One woman related to the gathering the tale of a police raid on her home.



Libertarian Zander Collier stumping for his campaign for State Assembly, District 24.

Wayne Justmann, chair of Medical Marijuana Task Force of San Francisco City and County, gave a moving talk, emphasizing that local individual action is required to affect *all* areas of politics.

Each candidate had a chance to speak about our campaigns. We also talked about the importance of voting, and made voter registration forms available.

I had a few conversations with people about politics. Only one person I met resides in District 13. Though fairly receptive, he didn't quite promise to vote for me. Zander Collier was the highlight prize recipient, winning a copy of **Ed Rosenthal's** *Big Book of Buds*. Rosenthal is a hero among medical marijuana advocates, having been sanctioned by the City of Oakland under to provide medical marijuana, but prosecuted nonetheless by the federal government.

Organizer Lohse had alerted the County Sheriff to the event, so there were no interruptions or inquiries from either the Sheriff or the Park Ranger, who both drove by several times.

Overall the event was a success—a solid opportunity for LPSCC to forge coalitions with energetic allies. ■

Photographs: Michael Laursen



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PAST ISSUES

Issues from 1998 are available on line at www.SC.CA.LP.org/scl/.

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■ No such thing as a free lunch? How about a FEE lunch?!

Foundation for Economic Education (FEE) is introducing a free program, *On the Road with FEE: Winning Freedom*, on May 22 at the SFO Doubletree Hotel.

Speakers include Cato Institute's **Doug Bandow**, and runs from 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Lunch will be provided.

Please register by May 14 at www.FEE.org, (914) 591-7230 or OnTheRoad@FEE.org.

■ Message from the Chair

No Excuses

No doubt about it—we got off track on our newsletter schedule in February, and now we're playing catch-up.

Our chapter hosted the state Libertarian Party convention, and frankly, that took a great deal of time and effort; when push came to shove, the convention simply took priority.

How did this happen? It's simple math. Our bylaws, which allow for 11 officers, assume that each chair of a task-oriented committee (e.g., Fundraising) will have a few volunteers to call upon. But in reality we have just six chairs filled and perhaps three active volunteers.

Worse, in a region of over 900,000 voters, we have only a few thousand registered Libertarians and fewer than 300 Party members.

I came on like gangbusters in February and called for massive recruitment. This is why. We're crippled by our lack of an activist base.

Yet we're accomplishing great things already. Our region now has more presence on the state Executive Committee than in a long time, if ever: in addition to our direct representative, Allen Rice, we hold three of the five At-Large seats, totaling four of the 15 seats. To think: with only six officers we hold four state positions.

We are poised for great things. We've reorganized our activities; established a budgeting procedure; and strategized, planned, and developed projects and conducted cross-training to help cover for each other. We are studying management technology to develop the LPSCC

as a political powerhouse with a real chance of electing candidates to partisan office soon. It may not be fully evident at the local level just yet, but what we're creating has been noticed at the state and national levels. All this despite our shortage of officers and volunteers.



Imagine what we could do with 11 officers and a dozen volunteers, or 50. Think how much easier it would be to find those volunteers if we had a thousand dues-paying members. Not to mention the extra funds

that would provide.

Think back to the day you discovered the Libertarian Party. You saw that there is another perspective. You were excited. You joined.

How are you about it today? Perhaps you're burned out from years as one of the few activists in your day. Maybe you're cynical now, having seen much bluster and few concretes. Perhaps you just never clicked on how to tell people why and what we would do if we had the chance.

This year we have the chance. Not only are the major parties obvious failures, each with a higher level of internal disaffection than ever, but now we can position *them* as the radicals, the extremists, the all-or-nothing patsies of vested interests and bogus political theories. And guess

■ See **Chair page 3**

Events: Friends of Libertarians

■ The **Civil Society Institute**, directed by Professor **Daniel Klein**, hosts talks by speakers to whom Libertarians can sure relate. Take full advantage of our neighbor **Santa Clara University**. Coming attractions include:

■ **Laurence Iannaccone** – May 12, 5:30 P.M.

Supply and Demand of Suicide Bombers

■ **Ivan Eland** – May 26, 5:30 P.M.

Does the Preemptive War Strategy Really Increase U.S. Security?

For more details, see www.SC.U.edu/csi/.

■ On May 6, **Independent Institute** in Oakland presents **Drug War Crimes**, with economist **Jeffrey Miron**, author of the major new book, *Drug War Crimes*, former San Jose police chief **Joseph McNamara**, and **Ethan Nadelmann**, drug policy expert, exploring real alternatives to America's "War on Drugs."

Reception and book signing: 6:30 P.M.

Program: 7:00 to 8:30 P.M.

Admission: \$15.00 (or \$25.00 for book too)

For reservations call (510) 632-1366 or order on line at www.Independent.org.

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■ Campaign 2004

Campaign Season's First Forum of Candidates

Our first candidates' forum of this exciting general election season was held on April 20. **The School of Choice**, a libertarian-friendly college preparatory academy in San Jose, donated use of their facility for the evening.

Allen Hacker, LPSCC Chair, emceed the forum, which featured candidate **Judge James Gray** (below right), who's challenging Barbara Boxer for U.S. Senate, along



Allen Hacker thanks hosts Suzanne & Robert Arne, who founded The School of Choice College Preparatory Academy in 1997. They welcome gifted students grades 4-12, and uphold four principles: individualized instruction, academic freedom, greater expectations, and supportive instructors.

with our own LPSCC-based candidates **Zander Collier**, State Assembly District 24, **Brian Holtz** (right), U.S. Representative District 14, and running for State Senate District 13, **Michael Laursen**.



The forum was small but a noteworthy learning experience for the local party. Remarkd **Kevin Takenaga**, Treasurer for the Collier for Assembly campaign, "By holding an event early in the season, we've been able to discover both our strengths

and weaknesses for the upcoming election cycle....this information is much more valuable to know now rather than six months from now."

Candidate **Allen Rice**, State Senate District 11, unable to attend the forum, sent a young friend interested in politics, Danny Allen, to read Rice's speech. The theme of the speech hinged on this quote from Oliver Wendell Holmes:

Reason may be the lever, but sentiment gives you the fulcrum and the place to stand on, if you want to move the world.

Michael Laursen (above), whose campaign emphasizes educational issues, was pleased to have seen **Robert Arne** get "so excited that I was talking about education and school choice."

The candidates and attendees, including medical marijuana provider **Jim Lohse** of Area 420, networked over sandwiches afterwards.

Zander Collier said that at upcoming forums, we must up the networking by ensuring groups attend such as American Muslim Alliance and California Civil Rights Alliance.

Watch the LPSCC web site for the next chance to meet your candidates. ■

Photographs: Elizabeth C. Brierly



Stossel *Continued from Page 1*

Finally, why do the media ceaselessly hype unrealistic fears? Every day, newspapers and television warn us of new, unsuspected dangers—from Alar and asbestos to cyclamates to the Audi 500. Stossel compares those risks to life's *real* risks.

Economist Milton Friedman describes Stossel as "...that rare creature, a TV commentator who understands economics, in all its subtlety." The winner of 19 Emmy Awards, Stossel was named co-anchor of ABC's "20/20" in May, 2003. He joined the highly acclaimed newsmagazine in 1981, and began doing one-hour prime time specials in 1994. Stossel's specials tackle issues that face Americans today, consistently rating among the top news programs while earning him uncommon praise. "The most consistently thought-provoking TV reporter of our time" said *Dallas Morning News*, while *Orlando Sentinel* said he "has the gift for entertaining while saying something profound."

The free lecture will begin at 5:45 P.M. in the Morris Dailey Auditorium on campus. Be sure to take your copy of Stossel's *Give Me A Break*, for a book signing and reception immediately following the presentation, until 8:00 P.M.

The Economics Department invites students, faculty, and the general public to consider intellectual arguments on controversial topics. Series lecturers are noted for their outstanding scholarship and public speaking ability. The series fosters the tradition of higher education to challenge ideas and develop critical thinking in an environment of respect and intellectual discourse. The goal is for audience members to develop the critical thinking skills necessary to reach their own informed position on controversial issues, and to enjoy the thought process. ■

Chair *Continued from Page 2*

what? That positions *us* as the moderates, middle of the road, the best half of each major party without the garbage of either.

This is the Libertarian Party today, poised for great things. All we need to make our share of it happen in Santa Clara County is a few thousand members and several thousand dollars in monthly income. From that will come the rest of our county officers, several dozen volunteers, and the resources we'll need to

oppose dangerous ballot issues and to support our candidates in the style they deserve.

Of course, none of that will happen if you, the members, don't start to heed my call, and get to recruiting. Just one new member a month from each of you would put us over the top. So what's stopping you? Are you too embarrassed or ashamed to talk up your libertarianism? Get past it. It's a new day for libertarianism and the Libertarian Party.

No excuses. ■

—Allen Hacker, Chair

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SAN JOSE, CA

Strike While the Iron is Hot! Voter Registration upon Naturalization

by **Kevin Takenaga**
 Treasurer, *Collier for Assembly*

Want to register voters before they're ever wooed by other parties? You're invited to help do just that at immigrants' citizenship naturalization ceremonies, held monthly in downtown San Jose.

On March 17, **Zander Collier**, the Libertarian candidate for California state Assembly Dist.



Was this the first test question for immigrants? Ceremony wasn't held March 7 but 17!

24, and I headed down to San Jose's Civic Auditorium. We found a hotbed of people pleased to be earning all the rights and privileges that citizenship in the U.S. provides, including the right to vote. We set up the LPSCC table outside, since there are restrictions on political parties' access to the auditorium.

We found that by waiting until the end of the ceremony, everyone had already



Candidate Zander Collier meeting newly sworn-in citizens in San Jose on March 7

registered to vote while inside—probably assisted by the League of Women Voters, which was permitted in the hall. Even the Democrat Party, with their two tables, had only two or three new citizens register to vote. So now we plan to set up a “hospitality table” and hand out literature *before* the newly minted citizens sign up and turn in their registration forms.

To participate in this great opportunity, contact me at Kevin@ElectCollier.org. ■

Ceremony Details

When: **Wednesdays**
 May 26 – 9:00 A.M.
 June 23 – 9:00
 July 20 – 9:00
 August 25 – 9:00 & 1:30 P.M.
 September 22 – 9:00 & 1:30

Where: **San Jose Civic Auditorium**
 408 South Almaden Blvd.
 San Jose, CA 95110

Web: www.Cand.USCourts.gov/cand/FAQ.nsf, click “Naturalization,” then “San Jose”

LP participation: **Kevin Takenaga**
 at Kevin@ElectCollier.org

Photographs: Kevin Takenaga

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