# Santa Clara Libertarian

184 North Sunnyvale Avenue • Sunnyvale, California 94086 • 961-4837

April 1981

Volume 9 No. 4

# San Jose Mini Conference Planned for Last Weekend in May

Set aside the weekend of May 30 and 31 on your calendar. On these dates, the LeBaron Hotel will be the scene of a mini conference featuring introductory level seminars on Libertarianism, Libertarian perspectives on the issues, campaign workshops, and the lofty deliberations of the Executive Committee of the California Libertarian Council. Admission to each day's events will be \$2 per person (\$4 for both days).

Saturday night Executive Committee members will be the guests of the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County at a potluck dinner celebrating the grand opening of the new county headquarters at 401 East Taylor. Anyone bringing a dish for the feast will be welcome.

A special low room rate is available for conference attendees at the LeBaron (\$36 single plus \$4 per extra person up to four people), so plan to make a Libertarian weekend away from home and reserve your room now. A further bargain is available to those who act quickly: a limited number of tickets to the conference is available at half price (\$1 per person per day) to those who register before May 1. To register send your check made out to "Libertarian Council" to the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County, 401 E. Taylor, San Jose, CA 95112. This offer is limited to the readers of Santa Clara Libertarian and their friends and relatives.

There are no scheduled parallel events. This is one conference where you don't have to miss anything. Guided tours of smokefilled rooms will be available on request.

### **Tentative Program**

| 10:00 a.m.             | Saturday Opening Ceremonies & Lectures at the LeBaron Hotel | Sunday<br>Executive Committee<br>continues* at the<br>LeBaron Hotel |
|------------------------|---|---|
| 12:00 noon             | Lunch Break   |   |
| 1:00 p.m.<br>2:00 p.m. | Executive Committee* Meeting at the LeBaron Hotel           | Campaign Workshops  |
| 6:00 p.m.              | Recess  | at the LeBaron  |
| 7:00 p.m.              | Grand Opening Party* & Potluck Dinner at 401 E. Taylor      |   |

\*Note that Executive Committee members in good standing will not be charged for admission to these events. However, a contribution toward the cost of the meeting rooms would be appreciated.

# Libertarian Council Activist Meeting Thursday, April 16

In a change of pace for the regular monthly meetings of the Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County, the April 16th meeting will feature discussion of the planned undertakings of the Council and Party. Results of the previous night's foray at the post office will be compared. Plans will be made for the San Jose Mini Conference May 30 and 31. And we will hold detailed discussions of our plans for the new office, the County Fair booth, the 1982 campaigns, and our campaign to stop the draft.

Those interested in any of the above mentioned issues are encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting will start at 8 p.m. This will probably be our last meeting in the Co-op Grocery Store, since we plan a pre-opening meeting at our new office in May.

The meeting room is located above the Co-op Grocery Store in the Fremont Corners Shopping Center. (From 280 take Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road north. The shopping center can be entered via a right turn immediately before Fremont Avenue. Stairs to the meeting room are located just inside the grocery store entrance closest to the Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road.) The Libertarian Council meets the third Thursday of every month. There is no admission fee and the public is welcome.

# Libertarian Council Has New Home

The Libertarian Council of Santa Clara County will soon be moving to a new headquarters office in San Jose. The office is located at 401 E. Taylor in a part of San Jose that lies roughly midway between the San Jose airport and San Jose State University. One large part of our office should be sufficient for most of our county meetings. At other times the space will be used for committee planning sessions, fair booth construction, equipment storage, Libertarian Party and Council records repository, and impromptu introductions to the politics of Liberty for interested visitors. Our telephone 408/CRY-FREE will be answered from this office on a regular basis; and once again, as during the 1980 campaigns, the press and public will be able to reach a live Libertarian during business hours.

Although our office will probably still be in an unfinished condition, we plan to hold our May 21st meeting there. Attendees and all interested members and readers are encouraged to contribute money, time, furniture, supplies, or what-have-you toward making our headquarters an enjoyable place to meet and work.

The official grand opening celebration is planned for Saturday, May 30th, in conjunction with the scheduled San Jose meeting of the California Libertarian Council Executive Committee. By then we hope to have a sufficient supply of tables, desks, chairs, and interior furnishings to make our office a credit to the largest region in the California Libertarian Council.

# Letters

The following letters from Santa Clara Libertarians have recently been published in bay area newspapers.

### Restitution: solution to jail problem

In reference to your Feb. 23 article, "Solution needed to ease jail overcrowding,," the solution is very easy.

Restitution is the answer. For property crime (stealing or damaging one's property), which constitutes 85 percent of all crime in California, the criminal is immediately released after making restitution to the victim for the property and to the prison for his story.

This is a genuinely "self-determinative" sentence.

Restitution is where the criminal must restore the victim's damages.

This solution has helped overcrowding in England, Holland, France, Belgium and even in Pennsylvania and Illinois in the United States.

A system of restitution in the United States would reduce taxes by 20 percent. Restitution is a part of the Libertarian Party platform.

Santa Clara County should wake up and see this idea and use it—it has been around as long as the Bible has (Exodus 22:3).

Anna L. Justi

### 'Real' conservatives

George Will's recent column on real conservatives points out what libertarians have known for quite a long time—that it doesn't matter whether liberals or conservatives are running the country, they both will use government to satisfy their particular special interests.

Instead of wasting my money on welfare and social programs, Will wants to waste my money on weapons and manipulation of trade. He doesn't seem to realize that the "road to bankruptcy" has been built alongside the "road to serfdom."

His brand of conservatism abandons the only legitimate issue which resurrected the right, namely getting government off our backs. His statement that the freedom from conscription is too much freedom is like saying that my "freedom" to fill out my income tax form is too much freedom.

Like liberals, George Will's conservatives are the American gigolos of the Constitution. The only ones left to defend the freedoms once guaranteed in the Bill of Rights are the Libertarians. Instead of restoring the American dream, Will would restore the American nightmare.

I think it is high time that the Mercury News start printing columns on what real freedom is about, instead of the "tunnel version" of writers like George Will.

Frank R. Zawacki

### Fine letter on victimless crime

I must congratulate Mr. Randy Huffman on his fine letter titled "Legalize some victimless crimes," published on March 5.

This view on the legalization of certain victimless crimes, such as prostitution, gambling, and narcotics, should coincide closely with the liberties and freedoms spoken by our founding fathers. The Libertarian Party, in fact, feels so strongly about this issue that the issue has been a key point in the building of the political

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# Tax Protest April 15th

Libertarians will hand out literature protesting the ever increasing tax burden at post offices all over the bay area. In Santa Clara County, demonstrations are planned from 8 p.m. to midnight at the main post offices of Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, and San Jose. Call 408/CRY-FREE to volunteer in your area. As incentive and ammunition for activists, the following table is reprinted from *Better Government at Half the Price*, by James T. Bennett and Manuel H. Johnson (Caroline House Publishers, Inc., Ottawa, Ill.).

### Taxes as a Percent of Earnings and Tax Freedom Day for the Average Worker, by Decade, 1929-1979

| Tax<br>Year<br>1929<br>1939 | Freedom Day February 9 March 5 | 10.8<br>17.4 | Days Working<br>for Government<br>39<br>63 |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------|--|
| 1949                        | March 24                       | 22.7         | 82   |
| 1959                        | April 15                       | 28.6         | 104  |
| 1969                        | May 3                          | 33.5         | 122  |
| 1978                        | May 6                          | 34.3         | 125  |
| 1979                        | May 8                          | 34.7         | 128  |
| 1980                        | May 11                         | 35.8         | 131  |

# **CAST Prepares First Strike**

At last month's meeting of the Libertarian Council, Libertarian Lee Phelps announced that *Citizens Asserting Supremacy over Taxation* would file a voter initiative on June 1st. The purpose of the initiative will be to prohibit *any* new tax, fee, levy, or increase by government unless it receives approval of two-thirds of the voters.

Petitions should be ready for circulation by the end of June. A gross total of 725,000 signatures is needed to provide the required number of valid signatures of registered voters for qualification for the June 1982 ballot. Contact 408/CRY-FREE to obtain petitions.

party. Now the overloading of jails and all of the factors involved result in another set of reasons to terminate any overlooking of this viewpoint.

By the time a citizen is classified as an adult, the person should supposedly be able to follow his own rules. If the rules allow the participation in victimless activities, then the written laws should allow the individual the freedom to do so.

As long as no other crimes are involved, what is the reason for prosecution?

Stephen J. Holly

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# The First Amendment will be the Last Battleground in the Great American Tax Resistance Movement...

The words... "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" may be among the most significant ever penned for us in the tax resistance movement. Because of them we enjoy total separation of church and state today. So strong is this sentiment that when IRS tried to challenge the validity of the Universal Life Church in 1970 it was soundly defeated in Judge Battin's court. We'll show you how to conveniently tie into the strength of the First Amendment and specifically the Universal Life Church. It's a chance for you to lawfully and safely do your part to regain some personal freedoms and perhaps someday regain our country.

With our program, 50% of your total income for the year becomes completely tax-exempt. Our clients enjoy an average 75% reduction in their federal taxes alone.

**TEA** invites you to one of our **free** public information meetings held **every** Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. at the:



Sundowner Inn 504 Ross Drive Sunnyvale

Going North take Hwy. 101 to the N. Mathilda Ave. exit and an immediate left onto Ross Drive.

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TEA, An Association of 20th Century Patriots 1928-C Old Middlefield Way Mountain View, California 94043 408/746-3755

# Hospitals

continued

family doctors and house calls, more and more people are relying on ERs for primary care. Hence, the new ER firms. For an annual fee, a firm such as Spectrum or Emergency Physicians will staff and operate a hospital's emergency room on a professional, full-time basis. Some 75 ER firms are already in operation, the largest of which, Spectrum, has contracts with some 220 hospitals.

It is precisely *because* an investor-owned firm seeks to make a profit that it figures out ways of operating more efficiently. It's just that profit motive that led AMI to develop the world's first mobile CAT scanner. Instead of having one of these life-saving \$500,000 machines at every hospital, AMI now serves 65 hospitals in three states with 18 scanner-equipped vans. IHC in Utah shares a \$150,000 simulator device between two of its hospitals, a blood bank among three.

Fortunately, a growing number of local government officials are coming to see that there's nothing wrong with profit-making hospitals. In fact, such hospitals frequently mean better care for less money—and relief for local taxpayers.

Fiscal Watchdog is a monthly bulletin of ideas on cutting the cost of local government, written by Robert W. Poole, Jr. Mr. Poole is chairman of the Local Government Center, an affiliate of the Taxpayers Foundation. Copyright © 1981 by the National Taxpayers Union.

# NOTES

- Advertising wanted for the SANTA CLARA LIBERTAMAN. Many local libertarians would like to patronize area businesses that are owned or operated by local libertarians. This newsletter circulates to over 600 members, subscribers and new inquiries every month. Your advertising would help to support this outreach to more potential libertarians living in the Santa Clara County area. Business Card Rates (camera ready copy): \$10/month, \$100 for 12 months. Full Page: \$100, \$200 for 3 months. Half Page: \$50, \$100 for 3 months.
- The Libertarian Supper Club of San Francisco meets monthly at various San Francisco restaurants. If you would like detailed information on the upcoming dinner please telephone the sponsor, Beverly Locke, at 415/864-3969 or write to her at 117 Pierce St., San Francisco, CA 94117.
- Wanted—Administrative Assistant. Highly organized, self-directed individual with strong office skills and general knowledge of libertarian philosophy and movement, to assist Academic Program Director, Institute for Humane Studies. Duties include: type letters and reports, make telephone contact with program coordinators, applicants, and allied institutions, do research at Director's suggestion. Note: This position is temporary and terminates September 1, 1981. Apply to: Walter Grinder, Institute for Humane Studies, 1177 University Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025. Information telephone: 415/323-2464.

# Calendar

# VOLUNTARY SOCIAL SYSTEMS COURSE AT STANFORD

Tuesdays and Thursdays. 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, March 31st through Thursday, June 4th.

Exploration of the ethical theory, feasibility, and the desirability of a libertarian social order in which people pursue ends on a voluntary basis. Topics include: Natural rights, the nonaggression principle, property rights, homesteading, contracts, defense, class theories of the state, historical fallacies, transition strategies to a voluntary society and other subjects. Location: Engineering Building, Room 332. Sponsor: Department of Engineering-Economics. The public is welcome to attend this 3-unit course. Information phone: Scott Olmsted at 415/497-1667.

### SAN MATEO COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, April 8. 7:30 p.m.

A social meeting for the local Council will be featured this month. Meetings are held the second Monday of each month in the Seven Oaks room of the A.P. Giannini branch of the Bank of America at Third Avenue and El Camino in San Mateo. Information phone: Don Smith at 415/368-8148.

### **INCOME TAX PROTEST**

Wednesday, April 15. 8:00 p.m. until our postcards run out.

Santa Clara County libertarians will be participating in National Tax Protest Day by handing out postcards giving the Libertarian Party position on taxation with a postpaid information request form. Come join us (if you aren't doing your taxes) at the San Jose Main Post Office on Meridian, the Sunnyvale Main P.O. on Mary or the Bayshore Annex in Palo Alto. Phone Dante DeAmicis at 408/CRY-FREE if you wish to organize a protest at another location.

### SANTA CLARA COUNTY LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, April 16. 8:00 p.m.

Libertarian activists will discuss the new office, the County Fair booth, the 1982 campaigns, and our efforts to stop taxation and the draft. Location: Second Floor Meeting Room of the Co-op Grocery Store in the Fremont Corners Shopping Center at the corner of Saratoga-Sunnyvale Road and Fremont Avenue in Sunnyvale. Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month. For more details about the speaker or location phone 408/CRY-FREE.

# CRISIS SURVIVAL AND THE SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITY

Friday, April 24. 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Saturday, April 25. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Don and Barbie Stephens, libertarians who are recognized authorities in the field of retreating and survival, will be presenting an evening overview and an in-depth seminar on crisis avoidance, self-sufficiency, earth-sheltered survival dwellings, and group retreats. Location: Skyline College on College Drive in San Bruno. The Theater (Bldg. 1) on Friday and Bldg. 2 on Saturday. Fees: None on Fri., Sat.—\$35 per person and \$45 per couple (reservations recommended). Sponsor: The Warm Fellowship of Mountain View. Information phone: Larry or Meg Letterman at 415/967-6551.

### **REGION 5 POTLUCK**

Sunday, April 26. 5:00 p.m.

California Libertarian Council members and friends are invited to a potluck dinner at the Surf & Sand Mobile Home Park recreation room, 750 47th Ave. in Capitola. Call Asa Lake at 408/576-3755 for reservations.

continued

## Fiscal Watchdog

# Why Hospitals Go Private

by Robert W. Poole, Jr.

When Prince Georges County, Maryland officials put their 900-bed hospital system up for lease, they weren't optimistic. Over the past two fiscal years it had lost \$5 million and was over \$10 million in arrears on debt payments. Yet startled officials received 43 inquiries, which led to seven firm offers from private hospital companies. A final decision is expected shortly.

What happened in Prince Georges County is not unusual. In the past few years dozens of city and county governments have sold or leased costly, inefficient public hospitals to investor-owned, profit-making hospital firms. Of America's 7,000 hospitals, over 1,300 are now owned or operated by such firms. (Another 1,700 are owned by local governments and the remainder are owned by local nonprofit organizations.) The largest of the firms, Hospital Affiliates International (HAI) owns 54 hospitals and manages another 96 under contract. Its nearest competitors, Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) and American Medical International (AMI) each own or operate more than 100 hospitals.

In part the privatization trend reflects the growing professionalization of hospital services. Until recently most hospitals—whether government or nonprofit—were not run as businesses. Instead, the emphasis was strictly on service. After all, people reasoned, "health care isn't a commodity!" The result, all too often, was badly managed hospitals—huge uncollectible bills, wasteful use of personnel, amateurish purchasing practices—all of which needlessly drove up costs.

But a hospital is a business—a vitally important business, but a business nonetheless. Therefore, running it like a business can bring important cost savings. In the late 1960s hospital management companies came into being. In exchange for an annual fee they would put the hospital on a businesslike basis—a modern

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cash management system to get control of collections, professional personnel management, chain-wide volume purchasing of supplies and equipment, sharing of costly equipment. Typically a management firm can save three to five times the cost of its contract fee.

More recently the hospital firms have been buying up money-losing hospitals rather than simply managing them. When Edmond, Oklahoma voters turned down several bond issues, city officials gave up hope of expanding their too-small city hospital. But HCA came to the rescue last July, paying the city \$7.4 million and promising to expand the facility. What had been a money-losing, tax-exempt organization is being transformed into a viable tax-paying member of the community.

Not everyone is pleased about hospital privatization, however. Some people argue that the only way a firm can turn a profit on hospital care is by jacking up the rates. While it's true that some nonprofit hospitals have charged below-market rates, in most cases for-profit hospitals end up charging *less*, because they operate so much more efficiently. Nationwide, the average patient charge for Humana, Inc. hospitals in 1977 was \$1,073—compared with an average of \$1,447 for nonprofit hospitals.

Other critics, such as *New England Journal of Medicine* editor Arnold S. Relman, worry about conflicts of interest—e.g., that for-profit hospitals will be tempted to keep patients longer than necessary in order to make more money. In fact, however, just the opposite seems to be the case. With their emphasis on efficiency, the private hospitals keep patients hospitalized only as long as necessary. The 21-hospital Intermountain Health Care chain in Utah keeps patients an average of 5.1 days, compared with a national average stay of 7.4 days. IHC's average patient charge ends up being 28 percent less.

Another worry is that private hospitals will simply "skim the cream," taking the easy patients but leaving such functions as emergency rooms and maternity wards to city or nonprofit hospitals. Once again, however, the facts indicate otherwise. First of all, 77 percent of all investor-owned hospitals have emergency rooms. Not as many have maternity wards—but with today's lower birth rates, not as many are needed, either.

Moreover, the past few years have seen the advent of for-profit firms *specializing* in emergency rooms. For years the ER was the hospital's dumping ground, all too often staffed by the least competent and least experienced doctors. But with the decline of *continued on page 5* 

# The United Libertarian Fellowship



1220 Larnel Place Los Altos, CA 94022 (415) 961-4837

The United Libertarian Fellowship is a Religious Order whose members are organized to promote the belief that "God is the supreme universal reality; all that has ever existed or will ever exist; the fundamental force of the universe."

Our members are dedicated to the spiritual and moral development of free, independent, and self-responsible individuals. We emphasize knowledge and self-improvement as the path to spiritual fulfillment and human freedom.

"Know the Truth . . . and the Truth shall set you Free."



continued

### LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL BOOTH AT THE DE ANZA FLEA MARKET

Saturday, May 2. 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Volunteers are needed, especially in the morning, to staff our permanent information and merchandise booth at the De Anza Flea Market in Cupertino. Help us to raise money to support our many local projects and educate yourself and others on the issues, by talking to the public about libertarianism. Donations of books and other fast-selling items are needed and may be dropped off at the flea market. Location: De Anza College Parking Lot C, Stevens Creek Blvd. & Snelling Rd. in Cupertino. For more information or to volunteer call Dante or Lory DeAmicis at 408/CRY-FREE.

### **REGION 5 LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL MEETING**

Tuesday, May 5. 7:30 p.m.

Region 5 (Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties) will hear a short presentation by Dennis Heinitz on the organization Truth About Income Taxes. For information, including meeting location, call Robin Jarvis at 408/476-6426.

### **FUTURE OF FREEDOM CONFERENCE**

Friday, May 8 through Sunday, May 10.

"The Technology of Freedom" is the theme for their Ninth Conference. Speakers include Karl Hess, Timothy Leary, Robert LeFevre, Irwin Schiff, Frank Fortkamp, David Friedman, Sam Konkin III, John Matonis, Lowell Ponte, Robert W. Poole, Jr., George H. Smith, Charles Curley, Linda Abrams, Spencer Mac-Callum, Anthony Hargis, David Bergland, Thomas Hazlett, and others. The banquet will feature "A Tribute to the Early Years" with John Hospers; the Saturday Party will be an evening with libertarian radio personality Dr. Dimento. Location: California State University, Long Beach. Fees: \$10-35. Discount price deadlines: April 15 & May 1. Sponsors: CSULB Students for Rational Individualism, Society for Libertarian Life, Rampart Institute, Society for Individual Liberty, Libertarian Supper Club of Orange County & Libertarian Law Council. For Conference brochure write to: P.O. Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632. Telephone: 714/979-5737 or 213/869-6051.

### TAX FREEDOM DAY

Thursday, May 14.

Congratulations...today is the first day of 1981 that you stop working for the government and start working for yourself.

# PRE-OPENING MEETING AT NEW COUNTY HEADQUARTERS

Thursday, May 21. 8:00 p.m.

This will be our first meeting at the new location: 401 E. Taylor in San Jose (near N. 10th Street). Please bring furniture and be prepared for a not quite finished meeting room.

### SAN JOSE MINI CONFERENCE

Saturday, May 30. 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Sunday, May 31. 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The admission price for these events surrounding the CLC Executive Committee Meeting is \$2 per day per person (\$1 before

May 1). Call 408/CRY-FREE for more information. Sunday times are approximate since this event will follow the adjournment of the Committee Meeting. Both events will be held at the LeBaron Hotel, 1350 North 1st Street in San Jose.

### GRAND OPENING CELEBRATION

Saturday, May 30. 7:00 p.m. to midnight.

A potluck dinner will celebrate the official opening of our new County Headquarters at 401 E. Taylor. More details in next issue.

### CALIFORNIA LIBERTARIAN COUNCIL STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Saturday, May 30. 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. Sunday, May 31. 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The Santa Clara County Council will be the host for this quarterly meeting. Location: LeBaron Hotel at 1350 North First Street in San Jose. Information phone: 408/CRY-FREE.

# UNDERSTANDING SOCIAL REALITY: THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE SPONTANEOUS ORDER

Sunday, July 19 through Saturday, July 20.

A college-level interdisciplinary seminar devoted to the intellectual and moral foundations of the free society. Lectures will weave together insights from economic theory, economic history, and legal and moral philosophy. Based on the insight which has been emphasized by F.A. Hayek that a viable social and economic order results from human purposes, but not from central design, the lectures by Murray N. Rothbard, Joseph Salerno and George H. Smith will analyze the nature and function of the private property, voluntary free market exchange system. Applications for fellowships (which will cover all but travel expenses) will be accepted from any student enrolled in an accredited senior college. Location: Stanford University. Fee: \$10 and a college transcript. Apply to: Seminar Director, Foundation for Advanced Studies in Liberty, Institute for Humane Studies, Suite 10, 1177 University Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025.

# SEVENTH ANNUAL LIBERTARIAN PARTY BOOTH AT THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY FAIR

Thursday, August 6 through Sunday, August 16. Noon to 10:30 p.m. every day.

A booth has been reserved in the center aisle (where the two other major political parties have their booths) in the Exposition Building at the Santa Clara County Fairgrounds at 344 Tully Road in San Jose. Phone Dante DeAmicis at 408/CRY-FREE if you wish to participate in the planning of this year's booth.

# TENTH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION OF THE NATIONAL LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Wednesday, August 26 through Sunday, August 30.

Location: Hilton Hotel in Denver, Colorado.

Additional announcements of events sponsored by and/or of interest to Bay Area Libertarians are requested. Deadline is the first of each month. Send announcements to SANTA CLARA LIBERTARIAN, 184 North Sunnyvale Avenue, Sunnyvale, California 94086.