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# the Southern Libertarian Messenger



July, 1983

Rt. 10 Box 52A, Florence, S. C. 29501

Vol. XII, No. 3

FOR OUR CURRENT EVENTS, CLASS, WILLARD WUMPLEY WILL READ FROM A NATIONAL COMMISSION REPORT ON EDUCATION!

AMONG-UM-OTHER-F-FINDINGS, THIRTEEN PURR CENT-OF 17-YEAR-OLDS ARE-UM-ARE....

## GREAT IDEA, RALPH

Speaking to a group of University of Minnesota students, Ralph Nader said in January that now "is quite a good opportunity for development of a small, leverage political party." While declining to lead such a party, he offered to help establish it. Nader suggested that the party field no candidates in 1984 but "articulate a brand new agenda of how power should be distributed." The next step would be to field candidates at the local level, followed by a move into the political mainstream with entirely new faces and a fresh orientation. "Either the citizens are going to shape their country or the Fortune 500 will shape it for them." — Minnesota Statewatch.

## Economics

Despite an increase in the number of two-income households, the spending power of American families has dropped steadily over the past decade. A report by Rutgers University's Center for Urban Policy Research says that between 1973 and 1980, real family income dropped \$1,300, down to an average \$21,000 a year. Research director Dr. George Sternlieb says it would have fallen even lower were it not for the increase in the number of working wives. Sternlieb blames that income drop on the increase in oil prices, and notes that the recent OPEC price war could signal a return to climbing incomes for the American family.

Contrary to popular belief, America's factories aren't dying of old age and unreasonable union demands. A new study says the real culprit is bad management. Duke University business professor Roger Schmenger says the average factory that closed in the '70s was less than 20 years old, and a third were no more than six years old. Few of the closings were brought about by union attitudes, he found. Most were caused by too many product variations, too much expansion and too many employees.

According to a recent psychological survey, every adult male questioned put himself in the top half of the population when it came to getting along with others. Sixty percent put themselves in the top 10 percent, and 25 percent tried to squeeze into the top one percent. Even in an area where self-deception should be more difficult, 60 percent said they were in the top 25 percent in terms of athletic ability.

For you were called to freedom.—Gal. 5:13.

8211 David Morris  
403 Clark St.  
Cayce, SC 29033



ARE-UM-FUH-FUH...



FUNCTIONALLY ILLITERATE



## Schools Are Rewarded For Doing Poor Job

Under the present system of financing public schools, these schools are rewarded for doing a poor job. If they were to do a good job, and teach the children to read, write, and figure, they could not say that they needed more money; it would be obvious that they did not, because they were able to get their job done with the money at hand.

But if they do a poor job, and turn out children who can't read and won't listen, then they can say, righteously, "We Need More Money!"

So, if they want better pay for themselves, the thing to do is not to do a good job.

This is, of course, a crazy way to try to run any school system. If we want schools to teach children

useful skills, we must reward schools for doing a good job. This is why we need tuition tax credits, or educational vouchers, or any other plan that would allow parents to take their children out of schools where they are not learning and put them into schools where they will learn. At present the only way parents can do this is to pay for their children's education twice, through taxes and fees, which is unfair.

JOHN HARLLEE

"Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must undergo the fatigue of supporting it."

—Thomas Paine, 1777

## Law Doctorates Far Exceed Engineering

The list of doctoral degrees awarded this year by the University of South Carolina which you carried in your issue of May 15 illustrates one of the roots of our economic problems. The university awarded almost 250 doctorates in law and only two in engineering.

LARRY A. JACKSON  
President

Lander College  
Greenwood

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## PRESIDENTIAL ECONOMIC KNOWNOTHINGISM - FROM THEIR OWN LIPS by Robert Brakeman

It's the easiest thing in the world to fill page after page with quotes from American Presidents -- quotes proving in their own words that where economic science is concerned they are as totally ignorant as (my favorite comparison) almost all politicians are of such things as honor, decency, and morality (else why would they be in the business of "legally" stealing things from some people and giving them to others, and caging or killing people for nonaggressive behavior?). I myself have filled a lot of those pages, and it's a lot of fun, but depressing at the same time. Number one on my alltime hit parade is probably a certain mediocrity-from-Missouri's announcement that the Employment Act of 1946 had repealed "unchangeable economic laws," but it's a tough choice.

It's not a choice that needs to be made here, though, for this analysis deals with another kind of quote: ones where a President doesn't say something idiotic about economics, but one where he confesses openly to being absolutely ignorant on the subject. I've chosen examples separated by 5 decades, lest the reader think President-as-dolt phenomenon is an isolated one:

In 1928, Calvin Coolidge had a conversation with his distinguished cousin, economics professor Parker Willis of Columbia University, in the White House. When C. C. remarked that he thought stock market speculation was dangerously high at the moment, P. W. pointed out that that view was the exact opposite of a recent public statement the President had made, in which he'd said that there was no cause for alarm (The AP story said: "President Coolidge is of the opinion that the record breaking increase in brokers' loans is not large enough to cause any unfavorable comment").

The President (in private, of course) was honest enough to express his befuddled ignorance to cousin Parker, when he "explained" his conflicting statements in this way: "When technical matters come up, I feel called upon to refer them to the proper department of the government which has some information about them and then, unless there is some good reason, I use this information as a basis for whatever I have to say..." That language is pretty blunt, but let me make it a little more so. The President was saying, in essence, "In manipulating the economy of the U. S., I have no idea what I'm doing; I just do what some bureaucrats tell me."

In 1972 another politician had his fingers on the economic "buttons" (which, although it always overlooked, probably are a good deal more crucial to our future than the "other" button, since the former are used daily & the other most likely never will be). Richard Nixon one day had a meeting with Bob Maldeman. Bob asked Dick if he's heard the news that the English government had floated the pound. Dick asked, "That's devaluation?" (I should stop right here, for if you're not impressed by the fact that the man who controls our economic destiny doesn't know what floating the pound is, you can't be impressed by anything -- it's not that the average citizen should know, it's that the President should) R. N. then said, "I don't care about it. Nothing we can do about it." (Translation: the Pres. wasn't saying: I hereby make the economic judgment that this matter is not one we should interest ourselves in; he was saying, I don't have the vaguest idea what this is all about, therefore I don't care about it). Nixon added that the subject of Amer-

# the Southern Libertarian Messenger

Editor  
Associate Editor

John T. Harllee  
Robert Brakeman

A newspaper is not for just reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it.  
— Mark Twain

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THE GREAT ISSUE OF OUR TIME IS NEITHER  
EDUCATIONAL NOR ECONOMIC; IT'S MORAL.

U. S. forbids imports of goods made by slave labor, but Customs Service refuses to make any attempt to enforce it. (SNF)

In 1897 Indiana legislature declared  $P_1 = 4$ . (Liberal)

Utah legislature forbade Great Salt Lake to rise above 4202 ft. elevation. In February it broke the law, and is waiting to be arrested. (WSJ/Liberal)

Seminole Indians have defeated Florida, and will continue to run bingo parlors on their reservations for tourists. (var.) Are now taking on IRS over reporting names of winners.

ica's foreign economic policies was "Too complicated for me to get into."

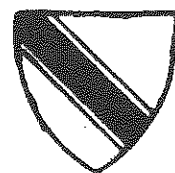
The lessons to be drawn from all this are unmissable. Although they obviously are missed, at least by those who take their propaganda straight from the tube each night. One is that it is insanity to expect a man who's spent the whole of his life becoming an expert at vote-grubbing to be an economic expert too; that is not what politicians spend their time on. 2nd: it is equally insane to give to such men the kinds of powers over our economic future that we have given them. 3rd: saying presidential ignorance doesn't matter 'cuz he can rely at experts at the Treasury is not acceptable, for those anonymous bureaucrats are thoroughly unaccountable to, and therefore uncontrollable by, the public. In sum, this presidential knownothingism is reason 5001 to get the hacks out of our economic lives.

## Harleian Miscellany Club

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MEETING ROOM -- Large area downstairs may be divided by petitions into smaller sections.

Doesn't say how many names you have to get on the partition. (FMMisprint)

Texas Monthly Press has just come out with Yankees Made Simple by Michael Hicks, who starts off with the observation that, "Maybe it's best to think of your new Yankee neighbors as reformed vampires visiting the church for the first time." (He said it, I didn't.) His other advice on migrants from the Snowbelt include explanations of the different kinds of Yankees: New Yorkers "invented deficits, 3 piece underwear, & subways", New Englanders are known for "crabbiness, clannishness, irascibility", Californians find almost everything Southerners value as disgusting. He also notes that if the entire population of Texas moved to Michigan they would not get nearly as good a reception as the entire population of Michigan which is moving to Texas is getting.

At San Jose State College Prof. Edward Laurie suggested that the football team should be at least 52% female and no more than 10% black, to conform to affirmative action policies. (Spot.)

Lockheed is again pioneering in airmail; it is using carrier pigeons to ferry microfilm between its plants in California, thus bypassing the postal & telephone monopolies. (var.)

Statistics on lynchings in the US, 1882-1930, state that of 1061 persons lynched outside the South, 802 were white. (Come Unity)

In San Francisco George Evankovich of the Laborers Union told Mayor's Task Force for Handgun Control, "First, let's take my wife's handgun away from her -- I'll feel a lot safer!" (SFChron)

"When I was very young, only the very old believed in classical liberalism. Now that I am very old, we're winning a flood of young people to our side." - F. A. Hayek

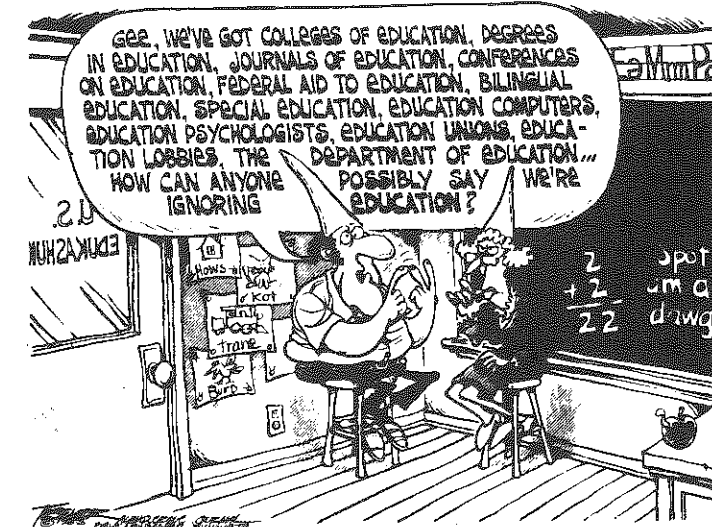
"To the extent that the government has interfered with the functioning of the free-market, the economy is plagued with shortages, inefficiency, and a lower standard of living." - John Hospers

In Czechoslovakia Helen Gordova and Francis Novakievski have been jailed for publishing a magazine, "Religion in Today's World". In Tashkent, USSR, Abdouzar Rakhimov got 7 years for printing "The Islamic Faith" and distributing tapes with Koran texts. (JTTCW)

Fr. Gleb Yakunin is in solitary for trying to help other prisoners: ucr. VS/389/37, st. Polovinka, Cusovoskoi rayon, Permskaya oblast, USSR. The brothers Podrabinek are in jail for anti-Soviet slander, such as describing how draftees are abused in the Russian army; write Alexander at ucr. YaD 40/50, pos. Bolshaya Markha, gorod Yakutsk, Yakutskaya ASSR, USSR; Kiril at ucr. YaTs 34/st2, gorod Tobolsk, Tyumenskaya oblast 626100, USSR. Both are suffering from TB.(var) And Anatoly Marchenko, the former petty criminal author & dissident is at Perm Labor Camp 35, POBox 5110/1-VS, Moscow, USSR. Cards & letters?

In 1800 Gen. Napoleon Bonaparte passed through Bourg-St.-Pierre, Switzerland with his army, and failed to pay his bill, including 2037 trees cut at fr. 6 ea., 188 cooking pots, including 80 not returned, local labor at fr. 3/man & fr. 6/mule, etc. to get through the Gran St. Bernard Pass. Pres. F. Mitterand is to visit Switzerland soon, & the village will, again, present the French govt. with the unpaid bill. (WSJ)

Stancu Papusoiu escaped from Rumania to Britain, but was returned because he had a prison record in Rumania, for a previous attempt to escape. (Economist/Ergo)



"If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war." declares Natl. Comm. on Excellence in Education, which didn't find much evidence of any. Someone should tell them that down here the fed. govt. has been an unfriendly foreign power at least since Dec. 20, 1860.

"We have stricken the (slave) shackles from four million human beings and brought all laborers to a common level, not so much by the elevation of former slaves as by practically reducing the whole working population, white and black, to a condition of serfdom." - Horace Greeley

Residents of Catalina Island, California, are circulating a secession petition, not only from California but from the US. (Santa Clara Lib) 26 miles across the sea, Santa Catalina is a-callin' to me!

"Bread, Rice, and Freedom", an article on communist oppression of the peasantry in the USSR and China is available in reprints from Dr. Ta-ling Lee, History Dept., Southern Connecticut State U., New Haven, CT 06515. Send SASE or stamps.

Denver zoning authorities have prohibited unmarried persons of different gender from residing in the same building in residential neighborhoods. The rationale is to prevent boardinghouses. (The Match!) Now, let's see: gay couples are legal, but widows living with an unmarried son aren't, even if the son is 18 and in high school; married people who are living with someone who is not their spouse are legal, but if they get a divorce and continue to live together, they aren't; and the permutations go on & on.

A study of federal employees in Washington, DC shows that they tend to invest in precious metals & gems and travel to Switzerland where they have bank accounts. (The Match!) Do they know something?

When Richard Parker lost his job in Ohio, he fell behind in alimony payments. Then he won a lawsuit, bought a used tow truck, and went into business for himself. Welfare officials are trying to seize the truck and make him unemployed again. (The Match!) Anything to keep up the case load.

SEC has proposed rules to disenfranchise millions of investors by placing minimum holding and length of holding requirements on stockholders to participate in the annual meeting. (SWF) Apparently want to stop asking of embarrassing questions and introduction of resolutions.

In Carter administration, \$22 million of aid to El Salvador "disappeared". (N-W Alert) Hmmm.



**"Call out the National Guard, I think it's a ROCK SINGER!"**

# Church's Failing Created Welfare

I do not wish to partake in partisan politics by way of this letter, for my position as pastor of a church would not permit me to do so. But I do feel compelled to respond to Mr. Alexander (Letters, Aug. 21).

I agree with his assertion that it is a biblical teaching to care for "the widows, the fatherless, and the old and helpless." But I challenge him, or anyone, to find any Scripture that teaches that it is the job of the government to do so.

For those who wish to examine some interesting concepts in Scripture, look up Matthew 25:35-45; Luke 10:25-37; Acts 6:1-7; I Corinthians 16:1-3; James 1:27 and II Thessalonians 3:10. Note that when a need arose, the church, not the Social Security Administration, was summoned to "rescue the perishing and care for the dying."

Governmental intervention was despised and rejected because it was considered an insult. Early Christians had the common sense to realize that when you accept governmental help, there are usually strings attached. I venture to say that if the church had been doing it's duty, we would never have needed a welfare system.

Remember, when we look to the government to supply our every need, we make a god of the government.

The Rev. KIRBY C. WINSTEAD

## Tax It All!

Tax his cow, tax his goat.  
Tax his pants, tax his coat.  
Tax his crop, tax his work,  
Tax his tie, tax his shirt.  
Tax his chew, tax his smoke,  
Teach him taxes are no joke.

Tax his tractor, tax his mule.  
Teach him taxes are a rule.  
Tax his oil, tax his gas,  
Tax his notes, tax his cash.  
Tax him good and let him know,  
That after taxes, he has no dough

If he hollers, tax him more.  
Tax him till he's good and sore.  
Tax his coffin, tax his grave.  
Tax the sod in which he lays.  
Put these word upon his tomb:  
"Taxes drove me to my doom."

(Even after he's gone, he won't relax;  
They'll still be after inheritance tax.)

—A. Nonymous

## curfew to prevent rape posted in providence

PROVIDENCE — The above notice was posted around the streets of Providence on March 21 by Citizens United to Reclaim Freedom for Every Woman (CURFEW). The group hopes that the notices will serve as a catalyst towards educating the public about the severity of violence against women.

### OFFICIAL PROCLAMATION

#### THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

WHEREAS: a majority of the population cannot walk outside at night without fearing sexual assault or sexual harassment; and

WHEREAS: 75% of all murder victims are women; and one out of four women will be raped in her lifetime; and

WHEREAS: It is men who create this violent atmosphere for women;

We, the State of Rhode Island do hereby Proclaim that  
**ALL MALES AGED 13 YEARS AND OLDER ARE HEREBY ORDERED TO REMAIN OFF THE STREETS**  
between 7p.m. and 6a.m. from March 21 to Sept. 21, and between 5:30p.m. and 7:30a.m. from Sept. 22 to March 20.

## numbers

WASHINGTON, DC — Figures calculated from the United States Census and released last June indicate that 736,000 households in the country consist of two unrelated men and 1.2 million consist of an unrelated man and woman.

"Marital Status and Living Arrangements," a government publication compiling statistics valid as of March 1981, features a tabulation of "Households with Two Unrelated Adults, by Marital Status, Age and Sex." Only 7,000 of the two-man households also include children, compared to 297,000 opposite-sex households with kids.

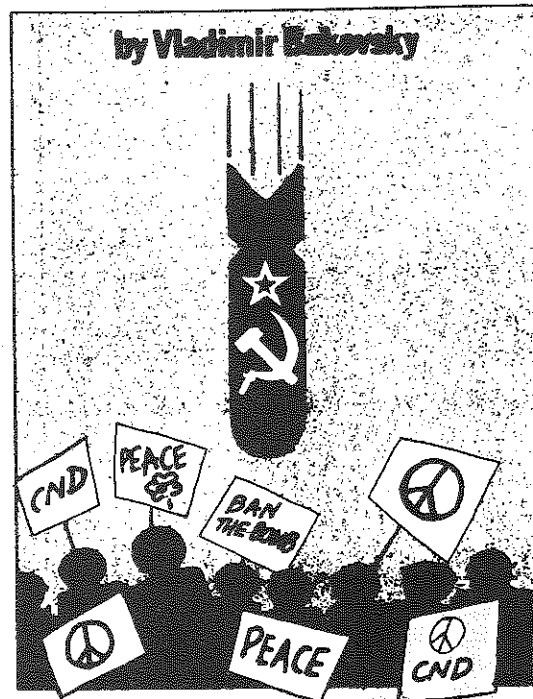
A written introduction to the tabulation of statistics reminds number-watchers that households counted comprise a variety of living arrangements, including unmarried couples, student roommates, people living together to reduce costs and live-in companions for the aged or disabled. The publication provides no statistical breakdown by type of living arrangement and presents no data on the number of households with two unrelated women.

Those interested in further details should consult *Current Population Reports, Population Characteristics Series P-20, No. 372* (Issued June 1982), "Marital Status and Living Arrangements: March 1981." The report may be purchased with a \$5 check made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

Ever increasing productivity is the secret behind the phenomenal rise in the US economy. Our bureaucracy has now stifled this productivity to the point where it is not growing at all. We can expect our productivity to fall at an increasing rate. This means that eventually our economy will crash. The social consequences will be awesome. — The Rhoads Conclusion Letter, P. O. Box 1088, Boulevard, CA 92005.

## The Peace Movement and the Soviet Union

by Vladimir Bukovsky



"In 1977, the noted Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky recalled how demoralizing it was to hear Trudeau praising the Soviets and saying Canada should copy them in developing Canada's north. He had been in prison during Trudeau's 1971 visit. Said Bukovsky: 'It was awful for us, for everybody in the Soviet Union. Everybody knew quite well how many millions of prisoners perished when developing those territories.'" —Toronto Sun.

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"In our country we have those three unspeakably precious things: freedom of speech, freedom of conscience, and the prudence never to practice either." — Mark Twain

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## Justice

A University of Kentucky study has found that veteran jurors are much more likely to vote for convictions. Researchers Ronald Dillehay and Michael Nietzel say they've discovered that when about half the jury has had prior experience, guilty verdicts average 47 percent. When more than half are experienced, the conviction rate jumps to 63 percent, and when all have served on juries before, there's an 81 percent chance of conviction.

## Nobody represents your interests

In Wajir, Kenya lions have devoured 30 people, and the govt. has decided to do something. It has told everyone not to wander around outside at night.

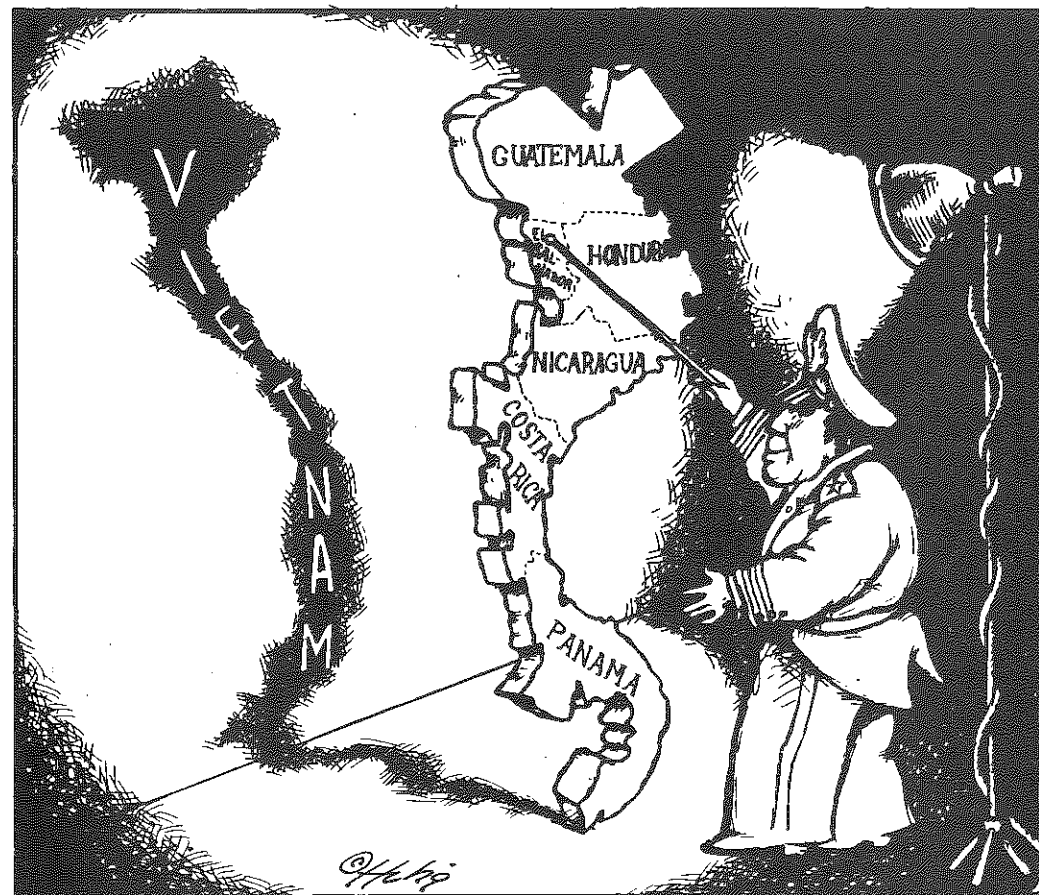
In Cairo Ibrahim Abdel Kader Mazeni was told by the tax office that he must pay immediately! They were informed that he has been dead for 25 years and cannot. (El Ahram/FFWorld)

Japan buys 60% of US beef exports, 40% of citrus exports, & also large portions of soybean, cotton & tobacco exports. (K, Speak Up) And we only hear of autos, TVs, etc. imported? Well, friends, beef, cotton, soybeans, tobacco, oranges, etc. aren't produced in the Northeast, but in the South & West, whose interests have been slighted by the fed. govt. for 150 years.

"If there ever had been any trust in the federal government and its officers, they would never have added the Bill of Rights." — J. K. Kahn. Let's hear it for mistrust of the fed. govt.!

Morton Grove, IL banned handguns last year and the number of assault & battery cases is up 29%. (SU)

A suburban Toronto resident got a load of sludge from the local sewage plant to fertilize his front yard, & found out what they were laughing about when he got it when 40,000 tomato plants came up. (Speak Up) The digestive system does not destroy tomato seeds.



## Living within law has unusual limits

CHAPEL HILL (AP) — Nocturnal water skiers and keepers of swine beware — North Carolina has a law that applies to you.

Water skiing or surfing after dark is punishable by a \$50 fine, say Joan C. Brannon and Susan Milnor of the Institute of Government at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

They recently published a list of misdemeanors with punishments not exceeding a fine of \$50 or imprisonment for 30 days.

For example, the General Statutes of North Carolina say that "willfully addressing or communicating orally with students of a school or college for women" is illegal "while the students are on school property or elsewhere when they are in the charge of a teacher, officer or other student of the school."

If you keep swine within one-quarter mile of the administration building of any state educational or charitable institution, you can be fined \$50 if you don't stop when a majority of the legal voters living within the quarter-mile radius ask you to.

If your hog dies a natural death, and you don't bury it at least 2 feet deep within 12 hours, you can be fined \$5 to \$10.

The owner or keeper of a dog who permits it "to pursue, worry or harass any squirrel or other wild animal kept on Capitol Square" in Raleigh can spend 30 days in jail or be fined \$50.

The owner of a motor vehicle who displays "any emblem or insignia of a club, lodge, fraternity, organization, etc." that he doesn't belong to can be similarly punished, state law holds. So can someone who refuses to clean his license plates when a police officer requests it.

Perpetrators face a \$50 fine and 30 days in jail if they:

- Catch fish with their hands in public mountain trout streams.

- Transport, buy, possess or stock in public waters any species of piranha, walking catfish or grass carp.

- Shoot raccoon during daylight hours west of U.S. 1 except in Richmond County, or carry an ax or a saw while hunting opossum or raccoon.

- Use "indecent or profane language in a loud and boisterous manner on any public road or highway and in hearing of two or more persons" — except in Pitt or Swain counties.

U.S. has 1400 advisory comm. that cost \$25million to operate. (Oregon Voters Digest) And give poor advice.

Dr. Edward Radford of Natl. Academy of Sciences has challenged estimates of danger from low level radiation from video display terminals (CRTs); says the conventional estimates are 10 times too low. (DCGaz)

Canadian studies show marijuana may contain 4 times as much "tar" as tobacco. (DCGaz) We've got a new health hazard, folks.

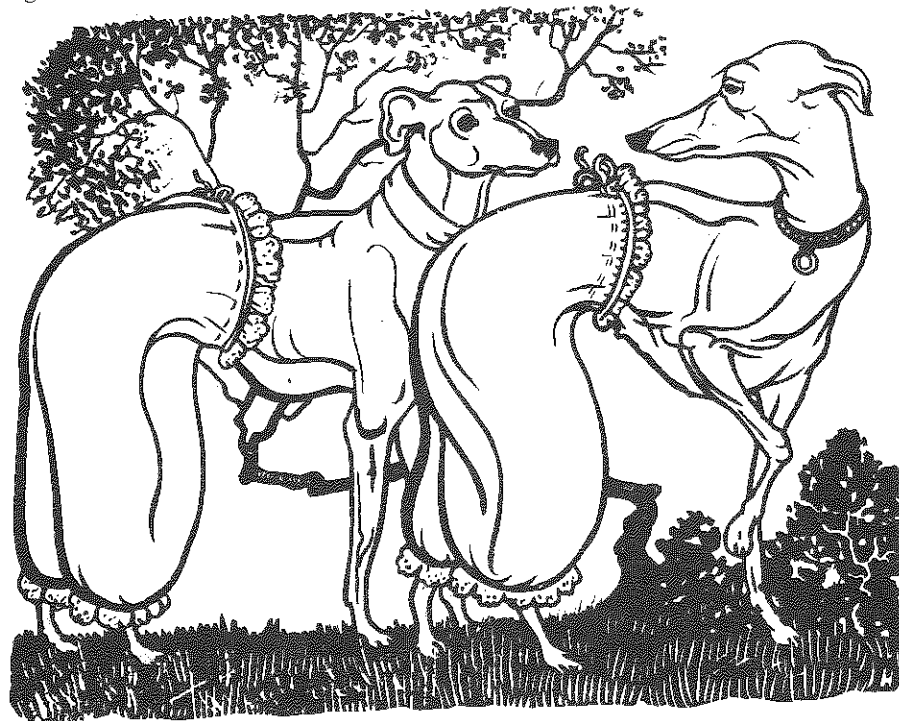
In New Orleans Shirley Jones has been arrested twice because someone else using the same name is wanted for theft & forgery. Authorities advised her to change her name. She's suing. (Computerworld)

The government of India put up about 1/2 of the \$20million cost of the movie, Gandhi. (DCGaz) No wonder it has so much propaganda in it. Curiously, it looks like they'll make a profit on the deal.

Spain has legalized marijuana. (Spot.) Ole!

On April 27 about 100 sq. ft. of the Capitol wall collapsed, just after Reagan's speech on Central America. On April 28 the carrier USS Enterprise hit a sandbar in San Francisco Bay and stuck for 6 hours. (var.) Never fear, the govt. has the situation under control.





I don't care what the moral majority says, I think it's silly!

## To Hell With Lawyers!

I want to say a kind word for the US Supreme Court: they deserve a vote of thanks for putting a stop to God & Country rallies. Not that they've yet gotten around to outlawing them -- they've just discouraged them by rulings that have upset the pious: on abortion, on voluntary prayer in schools, and now on tax exemption for segregated schools.

The next question is tax exemption for segregated churches, I predict. You see, something like 99% of the congregations are racially segregated de facto. Of course, some of these are all Negro. Indeed there are whole denominations that are racially segregated, but most of these are either Negro or white ethnic.

Also, I wish someone would challenge the media assumption that we have a "conservative" Supreme Court, because not all the members are liberals or appointed by liberals; in fact, the majority are, at best, moderat statist. The last real conservative on the Supreme Court was McReynolds, who retired in 1941.

### COMING OF AGE

One of the most influential books on sociology, anthropology, and teacher training (they call it professional education; I don't) has been Margaret Mead's Coming of Age in Samoa. Now comes Prof. Derek Freeman of Australian Natl. Univ., Margaret Mead and Samoa, & points out that "There isn't another example of such wholesale self-deception in the history of behavioral sciences." M. Mead did not live among Samoans, but among Americans (colonials), did not speak Samoan well enough to communicate, and got a totally wrong picture of their nature. Freeman notes that they are intensely competitive, and have some of the highest rates of homicide, assault & rape in the world; that casual love-making is rare and society is rigidly authoritarian. That adolescence is even more stressful there than elsewhere; in other words the exact opposite of M. Mead's preconceived conclusions. (Fate)

HAVE YOU NOTICED HOW GOVERNMENT gets so much attention in our time? All across the world, people more and more are looking to their government for help, security, financial support and the provision of almost all of the other necessities of life. We can be very concerned about the fact that more and more GOVERNMENT BECOMES THE FATHER AND MOTHER of increasing multitudes who think that the state possesses a golden stream of money and the ability to provide all. We well remember the words of Samuel Shumacher who said: "The rise of statism in our time is the natural result of the longing of godless, unchurched people for some kind of protection. When we lose God we turn to what looks like the next most powerful thing, which is the State. How bad a choice that is, let Germany and Russia in recent years testify." Christian Destiny

It took the federal government 174 years to reach the \$100-billion-a-year spending level in 1962. Only 9 years later, the annual budget reached the \$200-billion-a-year level. But in the last 11 years, we've gone from \$200 billion to nearly \$800 billion. The budget has been balanced only once in the last 21 years, and annual deficits have risen from the level of \$7 billion two decades ago to the level of nearly \$100 billion today. In those same two decades, the federal debt has soared from \$298 billion to more than \$1 trillion.

## Economics Newsletter

The socialist govt. of France granted workers a fifth week of vacation, but forbade them to take more than \$412.50 out of the country per person. (Globe/Ergo) Now let us see, my little cabbage: if we go to Spain for 36 days, that's \$23/day, and if we don't eat or sleep, that should pay for travel.

Simon Geller of Gloucester, MA lost his license to broadcast because he only broadcast classical music, no news no weather, no station breaks, & FCC awarded the license to an applicant who promised a "more balanced" format. (Spot.)

South Carolina ranks 48th in per capita income and 20th in tax collections. (State) What's going on here?

Jim Davidson of Natl. Taxpayers Union said IMF is hoarding \$50 billion in gold assets (to maintain price of South African gold) while asking US to give it \$8.4 billion.

Asked what she does when she sees an article she knows is inaccurate in her paper, Katherine Graham of the Washington Post said, "Nothing, usually." (Chi Trib) Now you know.

Using the fact that the IRS believes that silver coins are only worth face value, Dr. R. S. Jagard of Oelwein, IA is asking to be paid in specie, and reporting it at face value. (Jag)

"... the assumption (is) that the children attending schools in affluent, generally white, neighborhoods receive a "good" education. The fact is that the U. S. public school system offers no children an education, good or bad. What they are offered are two things: training in the use of what this society has deemed to be basic skills, math, reading, writing, etc., and ideological indoctrination." - David Rice (MVS) A lot of them don't even get that.

Dr. Armand Hammer of Occidental Petroleum had an interesting meeting May 20 with stockholder resolutions introduced against slave labor in the Communist bloc and Soviet human rights violations in the Baltic states. (SWF) Hammer is the son of the former secy. of the U S Communist Party, and has been engaged in trade with the Soviets since 1920s.

## Grand Passions

A number of interesting things happened at the recent SCLP convention; one that amused me was that Dr. David Morris was asked, "Do you have any children?" during the discussion of children's rights. (At the time he had been married a little over 7 months, and so it was not a polite question to ask.)

The interesting point is that many libertarians, and many thinkers from whom libertarian ideas are derived, have been childless. As a result, many of them do not understand how the average parent thinks, and this leads to some interesting misunderstandings and failure to consider possible ramifications of libertarian principles. (I will not go into other unfortunate aspects, such as the tendency of the looter and leach classes to breed like rabbits, and of the productive classes, or some of them, not to reproduce themselves.)

Now if Ayn Rand had had 10 children, maybe she never would have found time to write Atlas Shrugged. That's not the point: she had none, and her books are, essentially, about childless people.

The inability to think as a parent would caused me some trouble when I used to teach; I took the position that I was supposed to be teaching advanced algebra, not running a day care center. Once I figured out what the parents wanted, I said the hell with it.

Now to try to explain this to a libertarian group, let me put it this way; the average parent regards his child as his property, to do with as he sees fit, occupying a place in his affections close to that of The House, The Car, and the various adult toys. He wants from the child the same thing as from the dog and the various mechanical contrivances: total cooperation. He is very protective of the child, as of The Car, against anyone who might mar the paint job.

If you need further details, think of your own parents (in most cases).

Now, let me get to the point: we need to think through our propaganda efforts based on what things will mean to the average citizen with a dull job, a boring semi-private family life, and a mind put to sleep years ago by the government schools. We must not only get their attention, but try to explain things in terms they can understand. - jh

Some years ago, I was running a business and got a job application from a senior majoring in economics at one of the most prestigious Southern private colleges (Davidson). It had nothing to do with the job at hand, but I asked what he had read by von Mises or Hayek. He had never heard of them!

This confirmed several of my suspicions, and was not the reason I didn't hire him, but it points out a real problem that we face: if a graduate of a "good" college majoring in economics has never heard of Austrian economics, imagine how ignorant the rest may be. And imagine how little the people teaching economics in colleges may know, or care for, free market economics.

83 LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATING CONVENTION

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"Liberty is always dangerous, but it is the safest thing we have." -- Harry Emerson Fosdick  
"Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good." -- Mohandas Gandhi  
"The end move in politics is to pick up a gun." -- Buckminster Fuller

## ALL WE KNOW IS WHAT WE READ IN THE NEWSPAPERS

State law makes it illegal for hog owners to run at large. (Ft. Smith, AR, Southwest American) It shall be unlawful for any person to park any vehicle in a metered zone without having first deposited the proper coin therein. (Pueblo, CO Chieftan) One official said that an alarming number of U. S. Troops were not taking marijuana. (Phil. PA Inquirer) By order of the selectmen, cows grazing by the roadside or riding bicycles on the sidewalk is hereby forbidden. (Norway, ME, Advertiser) The death of an employee automatically ends his employment. (Federal Personnel Manual/Wash. Post) Because this law had created a hardship in practically every community, it was expected that it will be repeated next year. (Marquette, MI Mining Journal) The subcommittee is also investigating charges that servicemen are used to perform mental tasks for officers. (St. Louis Post-Dispatch) State highway patrolmen have been assigned to aid in holding up motorists. (Seattle Star)

Before the sales tax, 50.78 of Nevada sincome came from gambling, liquor and cigarette taxes. (Oakland Tribune) Representatives from about fourteen of the town's liquor stores met last night to hear some advice about how they can protect themselves from the Police Chief. (Hartford Times) It shall be illegal and punishable by fine to park any car in any space already occupied by another car. (Newton, Ky News) "We hope to attain our ends by peaceful means in Viet Nam ... but if farce is necessary we'll use it." (Denver Post) FIVE SCHOOL BROADS APPROVE SEX EDUCATION (Raleigh News & Observer) Police Department's Vice Squad took five boys into custody as the first fruits of a renewed campaign. (AP, Grand Rapids, MI)

## News Notes

"Many uneducated African men honestly can hardly differentiate between a wife and a cow or any other inanimate possession..." reports the Daily Nation of Nairobi, Kenya. I leave you to contemplate the poor benighted native trying to decide whether to sleep with his wife, or his cow, or....

Bill Thedick tried to get license plates with his last name on them, but California DMV ruled that his name is obscene. (SF Chron/FFWorld)

In Provo, UT, a lady renewing her driver's license remarked, "Ever since I started wearing my glasses while driving, I've noticed a tremendous increase in traffic." (FFW) So that's where it's all coming from.

Gordon Davis and other Sunday entrepreneurs at the Jockey Lot in Anderson, SC were charged with violation of the blue laws for selling on Sunday by the Anderson Co. sheriff. They proceeded to various discount and chain stores open on Sunday in the community, bought the same items on Sunday, and swore out warrants against the local merchants. The sheriff refused to serve the warrants. They then took out papers on the sheriff. Jockey Lot dealers have been left alone & in peace since. (sc)

## THE CORRESPONDENT

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## COME, LET US REASON TOGETHER...

It is supremely ironic that I should be writing in favor of tolerance, as I am not a tolerant person by nature. But if you believe in liberty, you must be prepared to cope with the near-certainty that many other people will use their liberty in ways that offend, but do not really injure, you. And that the alternative is to give up quite a lot of liberty, for everyone.

Let me give an example: Divorce. I am opposed not only for the conventional moral reasons, but also because it constitutes the violation of a contract, an important libertarian principle. There is, of course, the possibility, as in any broken contract, that one of the two parties may be totally innocent; this is generally rare, but has to be allowed for. (The cases where both are innocent come under annulment, not divorce.) Furthermore, I contend that the remarriage of a divorced person (except in the case of a totally innocent partner) constitutes adultery. (This is, incidentally, the position of most major denominations, even those as liberal as the Episcopalians, although some quibble over whether it is adultery or bigamy.) From a moral standpoint, it IS breaking one of the Ten Commandments, and thus in a class with murder or robbery. As a practical matter it cannot be considered a victimless crime if there are children to the marriage, especially small ones.

Now, why, then, do I not call for laws to abolish the divorce statutes (which in South Carolina are relatively recent) and to imprison persons who have contracted a second marriage for bigamy? First, I do not believe the state has any business trying to legislate morality. Second, I do not believe in the compulsory enforcement of a personal service contract; the injured party is entitled to damages, but not to specific performance.

(All this has nothing to do with the question of the obligation of parents to support their infant children, something which a large proportion of divorced parents refuse to do.)

Now, let us take another example of tolerance: dress. The way you dress makes a statement about who you are and what your lifestyle is. Hairstyle is much the same. This is a question about which I have no strong feelings. (Personally, I dress for comfort and pay no attention to fashion; like Sir Roger de Coverly, I have been in and out of fashion 4 or 5 times with the same clothes and hairdo.) But many people judge others by their clothes. When we were engaged in the drive to repeal the helmet law, Robert Clarkson met one wildly dressed biker who looked familiar, asked his name, and realized that he had not recognized one of his more dignified professors from Clemson. Also, I am not talking about dressing according to the occasion; certainly I would not wear the clothes I use to run the mimeograph to a funeral and vice versa.

The point is this: if I go to a meeting of the LP and meet someone who looks as if he just came from a gay bar, I do not have the right to assume that he is either gay or alcoholic, because I know from experience that people will wear clothes to LP meetings that they would never wear to work or other types of social gatherings. (I never said it wasn't interesting to watch.) The price of dressing the way you want to is that others will dress the way they want.

Let me give you one more example: I believe Sunday should be a day of rest. It may be news to those of you under 40, but at my age I need a day of rest every week. On the other hand, I do not believe it should be a day of enforced rest.

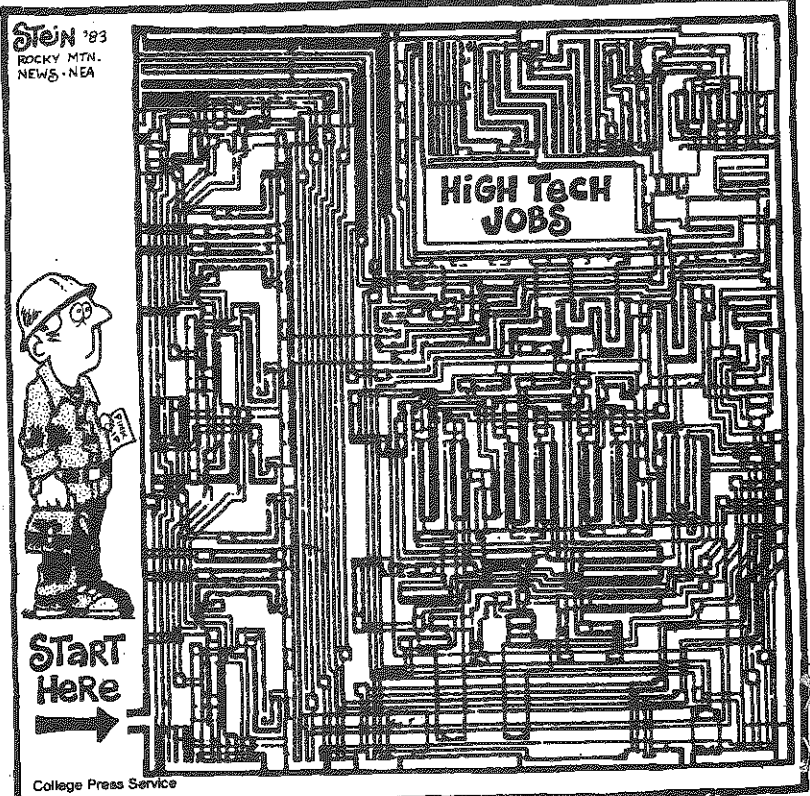
Surely, I could go on with examples of things I despise: types of drugs, sexual behavior, eyesores, or whatever, that the government has no business regulating.

So, we come back to our basic point: if you want freedom from oppressive government, you have to be prepared to have other people use their freedom in ways you don't care for.

Let us take just one drug, and see how it works: alcohol. I use this because the historical record is so complete. If you want to stop people from drinking, and killing other people with their drunken rage/driving/whatever, you must go a lot further than just pass a law. You must enforce the law. To do this, you must raise taxes to the point of diminishing returns, not only to replace the revenue lost from the liquor tax, but to finance the enforcement; the reason Prohibition didn't work was that the government was too small in those days to enforce it; if it had had 5 or 10 million revenueurs instead of 5 or 10 thousand, it might have gotten somewhere. Then, you must wipe out all the freedoms that get in the way of enforcement; you must give the revenueurs power to search anyone or anywhere any time, to jail anyone without trial, to suppress any criticism, to prevent any attempt to change the law, and so on.

On the other hand, if you don't want an oppressive government, you have to put up with the knowledge that some people are going to get drunk, and try to treat the problem of alcoholism by other means.

Please notice: it works both ways; if the government is going to try to enforce morality, it is going to have to impose high taxes to finance this. If it is going to get along without high taxes, it is going to have to allow people a lot of freedom, and they're going to use it to suit themselves. -jh



Salt Lake City Oratorio Choir's performance of Handel's "Messiah" in Jerusalem was interrupted by anti-Christian demonstrations. (Spot.) Apparently, the next stop on their tour will be Tokyo, where they will present Gilbert & Sullivan's "Mikado".