

Paul Jacob Defense Fund
P. O. Box 15724
Little Rock, Arkansas 72231

Donations are still needed to pay legal costs of Paul's appeals, and to help his family while he is in prison. He is at the fed. institute at Seagoville, Texas.

the Southern Libertarian Messenger



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Rev. R. J. Rushdoony

November, 1985

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

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DO WE NEED A LICENSE TO DIE?

It is not as easy to die these days as it once was. I can remember when dying-time meant that family and friends stopped by to say their farewells. On the day of the funeral, friends came from miles around, and everybody brought food for a big pot-luck banquet. Enough was left over to keep the family from having to cook for days after. It was a big reunion. At the cemetery some folks would show me their own grave-sites and headstones, with everything chiselled in except their death-date. Dying was easy then.

What happens now? Well, all kinds of certificates have to be filed, and they cost money. State and federal taxes on the house, farm, or business, can tie up a family for almost a year, and they also very often wipe them out financially. It's getting so bad that almost nobody can afford to die these days.

But this is not all. One law, which is catching on in state after state, requires that an autopsy be performed on the deceased if he or she had not been to a doctor within three weeks prior to death. Think of the implications of that. If you and I or anyone else is old and ailing, we must see a doctor, every month approximately, whether it does any good or not, or else an autopsy must be performed.

This means a tidy and steady income for the doctor, or else an income for the coroner. Much of this is taken care of by Medicare, but, of course, our tax money pays for that.

Now we have all heard of ghoulish people who try to cash in on death. They come around, on reading a death notice, and claim that the deceased ordered something, and then try to collect on it. Fortunately, there are not too many such people.

However, what can we say about our ghoulish federal and state governments which make death a time to gouge and rob widows and orphans? This subject is not a pleasant one, but I submit that any civil government that deliberately plans to make money out of death and the griefs of people has sunk as low as anyone can.

The Bible tells us over and over again that God regards the treatment of widows and orphans as a key test to the character of a people and a nation. God promises judgment on those who exploit widows and orphans.

In other words, God sees it as thoroughly rotten and contemptible for a nation to use the time of bereavement and grief to rob and impoverish a people. We have, however, made this policy into law. One estate planner says that about 75% of all families are economically wiped out by the death of a husband or wife.

People sometimes talk about the high price of funerals, but such costs are a trifle compared to the toll exacted by the federal and by many state governments.

It is time we told the ghouls in Washington that we have had enough of this. The taxation of death is the ultimate insult a civil government can impose upon a people. It is a degrading and an evil tax. The rich can utilize some provisions of the law to protect themselves to a degree, but most of us are the victims of the Washington ghouls.

Modern democratic states could hardly make themselves instruments to fetter the chains of servitude on their brothers by extraditing the brave men who have risen in revolt against a tyrant.

Stowell, *International Law: A Restatement of Principles* 272-73 (1931)

Judge says officials violated Polovchaks' rights by action

United Press International

CHICAGO

— Immigration officials violated the rights of the parents of Russian teenager Walter Polovchak by refusing to let them take their son back to the Soviet Union three years ago, a federal judge ruled Thursday.

Senior U.S. District Judge Thomas R. McMillen ruled that the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service denied due process of law to Anna and Michael Polovchak by forbidding them to take the boy back home without giving the parents a hearing.

"A minor child of tender years does not have the right to control his own destiny," McMillen declared in his eight-page ruling in a 5-year-old case that has drawn the intervention of two presidents, one who gave the boy political asylum and the other who granted him permanent residency status.

The Polovchaks now may return to Chicago and bring their son, now 17, back to their home in the Soviet Ukraine.

The parents and their lawyers from the American Civil Liberties Union also may seek an injunction against the INS at a hearing set for July 29, McMillen ruled.

"Walter isn't going anywhere," said Julian E. Kulas, the youth's attorney. He said Walter will be 18 on Oct. 3, when he can apply for U.S. citizenship.

McMillen said the INS violated the parents' right to due process on Jan. 8, 1982, when Walter was 14, in issuing a "departure control order" barring anyone from taking Walter from the country without giving the Polovchaks a hearing.

Walter turned 18 on October 3, and applied immediately for U. S. citizenship.

Waste Of Money

Associated Press

EXETER, R.I. — Cops are a waste of money, say the residents of this rural town of 4,500, where the only law officer is a part-time elected sergeant who carries no gun and doesn't mess with criminals.

And the sergeant, who is paid only \$485 a year, allows that the town wouldn't have any public schools either, if it wasn't forced to by law.

For the fourth year in a row, the Exeter town council at the annual financial meeting Thursday night refused to bring before voters a proposal to appropriate money for a police force.

"There's just no need," said Gregory G. Allen, council president. "I have never been approached by one person. If there was a need for it, you'd think that at least one person would come forward and say something."

The last time the issue was brought up — in 1978 — voters refused to spend their taxes for policemen. Allen and the rest of the five-man council feel that's a mandate that needs no further discussion.

The part-time sergeant, Richard S. Brown, 52, has police power, but he basically serves summonses and provides security at town meetings.

Brown occasionally gets a call from a resident wanting him to investigate criminal activity. But the council has instructed him to transfer all such calls to the state police.

Major Lionel J. Benjamin, state police commander, said Exeter is routinely patrolled by troopers from a nearby barracks. The town is the state's second largest in area, 58 square miles, but the only community among the state's 39 municipalities that does not have its own police force.

"It's about time they came into the 20th century, and paid for police protection like the rest of us," state Rep. Charles "Ted" Wright contends.

Exeter is not in Wright's legislative district, and Allen and others have suggested that he should mind his own business.

But Wright said he doesn't like the idea that other Rhode Island taxpayers are supporting police protection in Exeter.

"I'm sick and tired of footing the bill for them," he said. "The state police are not meant to be a town police department."

Three troopers, who earn an average of \$16,000 a year, patrol the area. Allen estimates it would cost \$350,000 to establish and equip a police force.

A graduate of a state police training school for municipal workers, Brown twice has tried to organize a volunteer police force in Exeter. Each time it has met opposition.

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by Roger M. Clites

Most governments, including our own, levy income taxes with rates which progress to higher and higher levels on additional amounts of income. They are called "progressive" taxes. In another sense they are anything but progressive. They do not lead to economic progress. In fact, they work against it.

Usually criticisms of such tax structures focus on the fact that they extract increasing proportions of incomes of people who make unusually large contributions to the economy. It is pointed out that those taxes discourage initiative, risk-taking and downright hard work. Those arguments have merit. There is another issue, however.

There are others who are hurt by that kind of tax structure. They include unemployed people, working wives, and paradoxically, the tax collector. The following examples and explanations each deal with one or more of those "others".

The first example comes from *The Freeman* (5/82). When Margaret Thatcher became Prime Minister of Great Britain, the top income tax rate was 98%. Suppose a rich Englishman who was at that 98% tax bracket acquired an additional sum that was equal to \$50,000. He could invest it at that time for a return of about 10%. This would add \$5,000. to his gross income. After the tax-collector took \$4,900, his take-home pay would rise by \$100. Also, at that time the least costly Rolls Royce sold for about \$50,000. Would you give up \$100 after-tax income a year to drive a Rolls Royce? So would the wealthy Englishman. In fact, so did many wealthy Englishmen. They were not hurt much by the tax. They were riding around in a Rolls. The tax most hurt unemployed people who were not able to find work because the funds were not invested productively.

Next to the unemployed person who is kept out of a job by such a tax, the most injured person may be a working wife. The main factor in whether she should work is not how much she can earn. It is how much her husband is already earning. All of her income is taxed at progressively higher rates, beginning at the highest rate already levied on her husband's income. If she does not work, all of the family's exemptions (for people) and deductions (for deductible costs) can be subtracted from her husband's income before taxes are levied on it. His first taxable dollars are taxed at the lowest rate. Additional earnings are taxed at higher and higher rates. Suppose his last dollars earned during the year are taxed at 40% (plus social security and state income taxes that would lift it over 50%). The very first dollar the wife earns is taxed at 40% (plus other taxes). As the year continues, her income will be taxed at still higher rates. If her husband works, a wife pays substantial taxes on every dollar she earns.

Finally, I used to know a young slaesman who sold enough goods to provide work for 30 production workers, while he worked. That is the key phrase, while he worked. When his income reached the 50% bracket, in late August or early September most years, he requested a leave of absence until January 2 because he refused to work half of each day "for the government". Like the rich Englishman, the salesman was not hurt severely by the tax. In his words, he would "lie on Miami Beach and watch the scenery walk by" for four months. Since he only worked 2/3 of the year, his sales provided work for only 20 production workers. If he had worked all year, he would have sold enough goods to provide jobs for 30 workers. It was the 10 people who were

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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

John T. Harilee
Robert Brakeman

Editor
Associate Editor

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\$8. by surface mail, overseas.

The only purpose for which power can be rightfully exercised over any member of a civilized community, against his will, is to prevent harm to others. His own good, either physical or moral, is not a sufficient warrant.

John Stuart Mill, "On Liberty"

We Should Be Free To Choose

I have observed with interest the controversy in Florence concerning what some people call obscenity. I do not support pornography, however. I simply detest any form of censorship.

The members of Citizens Against Pornography are, in my opinion, good Christians who are simply misguided and overzealous in their efforts to impose their beliefs on everyone else in Florence.

I side with the Citizens Against Censorship, who in fact should not be narrowly-mindedly interpreted as supporters of pornography. This group reflects the opinion of what has been called the "silent majority." I think most believe in freedom of choice, but aren't inclined to

get involved in this issue for fear of being labeled supporters of pornography.

As adults, we should have the freedom to choose which books we read, which movies we see, and the type of entertainment we desire. This freedom is the same freedom which allows us to worship, read the Bible, and attend Sunday School socials.

The point that the Citizens Against Pornography seem to be overlooking is that their freedom to worship as they choose could just as easily be withdrawn. Once we start limiting freedom, where do we draw the line?

J. Leonard Brown, Pamplico

Right to Picket, But Not To Dictate

It worries me that a group of non-elected citizens are attempting to dictate what is socially acceptable and what is not for the rest of the Florence community. I agree that it was within the rights of the Citizens Against Pornography to picket Dimensions, but by going after "pornography" in general they may tread on others' freedom of choice. Whose standards will they use to decide what is obscene? The religious community's?

If so, then I am in trouble. I breastfeed my infant daughter. I do so in public,

discreetly, without being ashamed. After talking with many other nursing mothers, I have learned that quite a few of the local church congregations strongly discourage mothers from nursing their babies while attending services. This must mean that the ministers and church members consider exposing a mother's breast to nourish her infant as obscene or socially unacceptable. Must I now worry every time I feed my baby away from home that I will be labeled "pornographic"?

Janet B. Dean, Timmonsville

never hired who were most hurt, because the tax caused him to stop his selling activities early in the fall of each year.

Ironically, the tax collector also lost - twice. First, the salesman ceased to earn income the latter third of the year and paid no further tax. Second, the 10 people who were never hired paid no taxes.

The progressive income tax may be unfair to "rich" investors and highly productive workers who have large shares of their earnings taken from them by the tax collector. My current concern, however, is with the unemployed person whose job is not created because an economic activity is kept from being carried out by high tax rates and with the working wife who finds her after-tax income may not even pay for child-care and other expenses, let alone compensate her for her time and effort.

by Mycall Sunanda

The current escalating government-run war-on-pot and other "controlled substances" (drugs) is really a battle to control minds and emotions (don't be altered or go mad), as much as using laws to support the drug and corrections industries. Prisons employ thousands of military-minded, while threatening the masses for breaking laws. It is true cops protect the property-owning (tax-paying) class, but blaming them for pothibition is misplaced protest. We must get to the root and cause of the pot-war, rather than play "the politics of blame", seeking why some people fear, and some want and use pot. I think the fears are really similar to the anti-sexual obscenity laws against nudity, helping sell the unnatural sexy cover-ups (fashion).

But what causes these fear-ridden laws enforcing conformity? Most adults are afraid of losing control of their mind, body and emotions, of expanding their consciousness. So, like parents blaming their kids for upsetting them, pot-laws and pot fears are projecting blame outside for (I think) fear of losing control of self and/or others. However, the persecution-of-pot is really big-business to keep millions depending on drugs and media. You can't sell free-love or free-pot (home-grown), but unnatural sex is like drugs, marketable and profitable. Home-grown pot is like home-made solar energy; both can liberate us from the inflating costs of depending on the power or drug industry, but laws forbid or discourage them. However, depending on pot to relax is as unnatural as fearing it.

Reefer-madness, the fear of pot, could be caused by parents making children fear laws or fear getting loose, wild or out-of-control, psychedelic. Pot-heads fear of getting busted is projecting fear on authorities, and fear-of-pot is a projection of the fear of nature (the dark, unknown and shocking). Our pot-laws are symbolic of cultural-mind-control through government. In fact most adults don't even doubt arresting people for having or growing herbs (science says are medicinal and not dangerous), plants that we use to relax in a stressful society, is absurd. Pot-heads are too mellow to get mad over pot-laws. We need a vast cultural enlightenment to liberate us from pot fears, probably by recognizing Mother Nature as the supplier of our resources.

anything's possible

The Haile gold mine at Kershaw, SC, has been reopened, the first gold mine on the East Coast to operate since 1942. New technology may make the production of low-grade ore profitable, especially if other minerals such as copper and molybdenum can also be produced. (AP)

John Lofton decided to call some of the groups protesting apartheid in South Africa, and ask if they were also pressuring companies that do business with Russia or China; the results are just what you would expect: they aren't interested. (Chalcedon)

If you are traveling near Auburn, CA, watch for a large swarm of bees; a rig turned over and released 16million of them. (SFChronicle/FFWorld)

Paris police report that 1 of every 3 cars not moving is parked illegally. (FFWorld)

by Robert Brakeman

The Washington Feverswamp/Wonderland/Neverneverland/Bedlam is ever-active and two bits of its activity in recent years have prompted me to ask for a third (pro-liberty types like yours truly just never ask for new laws - we want the old ones killed - so you know this must be a special occasion). Our Washington "leaders" (there's simply no excuse for using that word without the quotations marks) have handed down to us the Truth-in-Lending Law, which requires financial institutions (except for Loanshark Louie) to speak without forked tongues about the rate of interest involved when we borrow from them; and they've also sent along the Truth-in-Packaging Law, which requires that things be labelled for what they really are.

Now, sticking with the same two items - financial institutions and truthful labelling - consider this situation, which now exists. A bank bids for your savings, and says it will pay you 5% per annum for them, which compounded quarterly or daily will yield an effective rate of say, 5.27%. Or a savings & loan association bids for those same dollars you've somehow been able to save after having most of your income stolen to support every drone and charlatan in this country and abroad, and it offers you a basic annual rate of 5.25%, which, compounded, yields an effective annual rate of, say, 5.51%. The problem is, both those institutions are lying to you just as surely as politicians lie about their primary interests (power, glory, money and themselves) and their last-interest (your liberty to control your own life). Typically, with basic bank interest rates at 5%, the saver is actually losing money every single year - he or she is earning an interest rate of exactly 0% per annum, and is losing part of the principal too. The reason of course is inflation. If your account is earning 5% and inflation is taking from you 15% (a rate even the government has admitted lately, and its figures understate the rate, as I've explained elsewhere), obviously you are losing 10% per annum, not gaining 5%. Your effective rate is minus 10%. I really shouldn't use the word "obviously", for something which is apparently not too obvious means you are even worse off than that. When you get the supposed 5%, you pay federal and state and local taxes on that amount, every penny of it. When that factor is mixed into the equation (a factor that means that even without inflation you're not getting the return the banks claim), and when the real inflation rates (as opposed to the ones the government concedes) are factored in, your typical return is more likely to be in the minus 15-20% range per annum, rather than "just" minus 10%.

So, how about a law which would require banks to say, "We promise to pay you a nominal interest rate of 5% per annum; however, since the government is inflating the currency at a rate which is reducing the purchasing power of your money by 15% per year, your real interest rate will be -10%; that is, we and the government will conspire to steal 10% of your principal each year."

Now, of course, no such law is going to be passed, for the charlatans on the Potomac are (a) insincere in pretending to be concerned with our best interests, one of which is full information (that's part of being a charlatan), and (b) they are not likely to call attention to their creation: Inflation.

Ron Paul notes that Federal Reserve is on Constitution Ave. in Washington, & says, "Who says bankers don't have a sense of humor?"

IN PRAISE OF BEGGARS

by Robert Brakeman

The most precise measure of how far gone a particular society is in anti-liberty, anti-sanity directions is the extent to which its citizens have come to love things which are inimical to both their freedom and their affluence, and to hate things which are either good for them (in both those senses of "good") or neutral/harmless. Thus in the American of Right Now, the Great Mass Mind idolizes the state-as-provider and fails to comprehend the inevitable results (tyranny and economic cataclysm) of such a provision-system; and it abhors the thought of a free economic system, though such a system (which last appeared in America in about 1810) would both avoid the disasters of the one and produce immense positive achievements of its own.

What of neutral/harmless factors? Consider the case of one which is at least harmless, which in fact might be considered positively useful - and which is as widely condemned as anything this side of venereal disease: the institution of begging. By that I don't mean Institutional Begging, the process through which organized interest groups go crying/sniveling/howling to the government and demand resources stolen from others (and get them); I mean the scenario in which someone stops you on the street and asks you for cash. Begging.

The case for begging-as-neutral/harmless is as brief as it is powerful. The act of begging consists of only this: a person (why do we picture beggars as men?), operating in a legitimate place (a public location or a private location to which the owners have admitted him/her), commits a legitimate act (seeking a gift of money or goods), using legitimate means (the spoken word). No violence here, no crime, no immorality, no infringement of any human right; whether you happen to like the panhandler asking you for cash is irrelevant, from a moral perspective, as whether you happen to like the ravings of the local radio-talk-show lunatic - the beggar's right to merely ask for something is incontestable, assuming of course that you're not physically impeded in the slightest.

Thus, if the protection of individual liberty is the goal, begging is at the very least a neutral institution, for no infringement of liberty occurs. But wait; "at the very least" turns out to be a key phrase and a prescient one, for a bit of further analysis shows begging to be an institution which performs a very valuable service. Very. That service consists of exemplifying with perfect accuracy the relationship between (possible) donor and (potential) recipient. When the beggar approaches a person on the street, it is abundantly clear that (a) he comes in the pure role of supplicant, with no pretensions to having a claim on the citizen or his resources; (b) the person approached has total autonomy, total free choice, on the question of whether or not to contribute; and (c) if he or she should choose not to kick in, no "right" ("well-fare right" or "social right" or whatever) of the beggar will have been violated, no "oppression" will have been directed at him, and neither "social justice" nor his "just deserts" will have been obliterated.

Now, it should be clear that in a world and in a country where all of those points are constantly obfuscated, where those seeking resources from their rightful owners are constantly demanding them in-

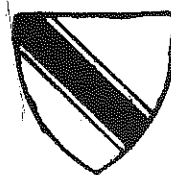
Consumption is the sole end and purpose of all production; and the interest of the producer is attended to, only so far as it may be necessary for promoting that of the consumer. The maxim is so perfectly self-evident, that it would be absurd to attempt to disprove it. But in the mercantile system, the interest of the consumer is almost constantly sacrificed to that of the producer; and it seems to consider production, and not consumption, as the ultimate end and object of all industry and commerce.

Adam Smith, *The Wealth of Nations*, 1776

stead of politely asking for a gift at the discretion of the owner, any institution or practice which makes those relationships so brilliantly clear is not merely neutral; to call it that does it an injustice, for in performing that important a service it has defined itself as a very significant and very useful human institution.

Finally, this also should be clear, now that we've placed begging in its proper perspective: the reason government at all levels hates begging with great vehemence is precisely that the institution provided such a wonderfully enlightening contrast with what governments do through their steal-from-some-for-the-benefit-of-others "welfare" systems; every beggar on the street, through his/her entirely legitimate action of asking the owner of resources for a gift of them, is saying terrible (and terribly accurate) things about a system in which resources are taken by violence from their owners and given to - beggars. It should not be surprising that in every western country there are super-severe laws against begging; every beggar is "eloquent", though he may never open his mouth, on the subject of the only moral way to help unfortunates and the theft-based nature of the present system. Take a beggar to lunch.

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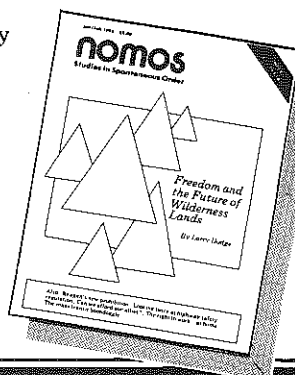
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More Trivia

Robert Ringer is discontinuing "The Tortoise Report"; other interests.

Reservists are training every weekend instead of once a month; govt. may be planning a small war or something. (Don Bell Reports/ Moneychanger)

IRS has ruled that witchcraft is a religion. (DND/Moneychanger) Here is the story, and don't ask how I got it: you know that IRS personnel have been disappearing lately? Well, some of the covens had suggested that if they didn't get tax exemption, a few IRS agents would be turned into frogs.....

"Is it only an accident that wholly dependent educational institutions produce graduates that can't even conceptionalize a sustainable society?" asks Chris Hennin in New Options. No accident.

"Now, I ask you, who controls our government? Certainly we don't!" declares Bob Chapman in the "Gary Allen Report", discussing plight of farmers.

"Patrick Henry and other revolutionaries said 'No' to taxes because they loved freedom. They argued that the fruits of their labor should not go to the Crown across the sea. In the same sense we ask today: Why should the fruits of our labors go to that capitol across the river? We have to get public law back in line with private imperitives. The disposition of your money belongs by rights to you." R. Reagan says all this in Williamsburg, VA & then goes back to Washington & acts as if he never heard the very idea.

Address: VOGUE (Victims of Government United Everywhere), 499 Capitol St. SW, Washington, DC 20003. Former congressman George Hansen & crew.

"If John Marshall were alive today he would put his foot down hard on federal encroachment on individual rights. Today, the notion of law is that it can be used as a scheme for social control, to regulate human conduct and relations, and to secure the moral well-being of the individual by forcing upon all the people the precepts and ideas of groups or classes of people. The result is a growing non-observance and disrespect for the law," declared Gov. Ritchie of Maryland in 1926. (Pathfinder/CoP)

"If you're going to reduce taxes, some agencies **MUST** be abolished, some programs **MUST** be ended and some bureaucrats **MUST** be fired. There is no other way!"

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Letters to Barney Hayhoe, H. M. Treasury, Parliament St., London SW1, England (44¢ airmail) are requested on behalf of Gay's the Word bookstore, which has had a large consignment of American magazines & books seized by H. M. Customs.

"It does not make sense to me to replace the liberal socialists (Democrats) and/or the conservative socialists (Republicans) with the mixed-up socialists (Populists)." says Andrew Melechinsky. (Const. Revival)

"There is no greater fallacy than the belief that aims and purposes are one thing, while methods and tactics are another." - Emma Goldman

"We should all be concerned about the future because we will have to spend the rest of our lives there." - Charles F. Kettering, SEED FOR THOUGHT.

Most men who earn more than \$30,000 are unfaithful to their wives, and the higher the income, the higher the adultery rate. (Bottom Line) Cost of loving, you know.

Britain has launched a new aircraft carrier, the Ark Royal, but don't have crew for it: too many limeys in cushy shore jobs. (Wash. Report)

What would the U. S. be today if it had been founded on "the principles of Catholic thought circa 1776?" asks Michael Novak in the Wash. Post. Try Paraguay, which was run by the Jesuits on the most up-to-date 18th century ideas.

Incidentally, if you're as annoyed with the Catholic bishops' pronouncements against capitalism as I, ask if they've ever read Pius XI's 1930 encyclical, Quod Anno, which condemns socialist thought.

Georgi Malenkov, Prime Minister of USSR 1953-55, has joined the Russian Orthodox Church in Moscow, where he has been living in retirement for 25 years, reports Vatican radio.

Ethiopia charges import duties on food being given to feed the starving. (Human Events)

In Beebe, AR, a dog locked in a store, knocked over a phone & summoned the police, who thought, at first, the heavy breathing was an obscene call. (SW Times Record/FFWorld)

In Laguna Canyon, an attempt is being made to train sea lions as lifeguards, noting that they are faster & stronger swimmers than humans. (LATimes/FFW)

If There Is Censorship, Absolutely Nothing Is Safe From It

(Editor's Note — This is one in a series of articles on English prepared by members of the staff of Francis Marion College. Today's is by Dr. Warren Westcott, associate professor of English.)

Because they have seen it applied to some very famous written works, instructors of English and students of literature know all too well what censorship is. Whenever citizens undertake to purge their communities of books, magazines, and public performances which they deem objectionable because of explicit sexual content, censorship exists.

Anyone who has seen a blue movie or read a pornographic novel knows just how mindless and devoid of social or moral purpose they usually are. There is even merit to the argument that such materials may be damaging to the moral values of the more impressionable among us — though it is a moot point whether they are any more mindless or damaging than much of the violence or sexism that pervades popular culture. (No one suggests picketing a movie like "Rambo," for instance, because it glamorizes hurling bombs and

bashing heads in the name of justice.)

Although it is hard to argue in favor of preserving such materials, there is a much larger and more important issue at stake: whether we as a society can allow any one group of citizens or any governmental agency to dictate what the entire society may and may not read or view.

Censorship is not a new problem, of course. It has been argued ad infinitum and ad nauseam for as long as any of us can remember, and it keeps coming back to haunt us. The first public book burning in this country, according to a 1980 article in "Today's Education," happened in Boston in 1850. Thomas Pynchon's book "The Meritorious Price of Our Redemption" was fed to the flames in the central marketplace by the common executioner because the religious ideas it expressed differed from the colony's established religion. According to the same article, the last book burning happened in 1977. In that episode, 40 copies of a high school textbook titled "Values Clarification" were burned in Warsaw, Ind., by a group of senior citizens.

In the years between, books of every imaginable sort have come under attack from one special interest group or

another. An examination of surveys conducted by the National Council of Teachers of English shows that between 1965 and 1981, at least 600 books have been the subjects of complaint. These include examples of the very best of both modern and classic literature: Plato's "Republic" ("This book is un-Christian."), Jules Verne's "Around the World in Eighty Days" ("Very unfavorable to Mormons."), Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" ("The word rape is used several times....").

Such objections are not confined to literature. A similar NCTE publication cites these challenges to popular media: "National Geographic" ("Nudity and sensationalism, especially in stories on barbaric foreign people."), "Scholastic Magazine" ("Doctrines opposing the beliefs of the majority, socialistic programs; promotes racial unrest and contains very detailed geography of foreign countries, especially those inhabited by dark people."), and the "New York Times" ("That thing should be outlawed after printing the Pentagon papers and helping our country's enemies....").

Most people who attempt to impose censorship seem to suffer from the kind of tunnel-vision that all of us are

susceptible to if we are not careful. They assume that their values are or should be the values to which everyone subscribes. Whether or not we believe that there are such things as eternal verities and absolute moral values, we are compelled to acknowledge that in the real world there are inevitably people who disagree with us. The idea that laws must reflect the prevailing moral attitudes of the community may only encourage the oppression of minorities by the majority. In this pluralistic society of ours, we have agreed that in order to preserve our own right to believe as we think best, we must preserve everyone's right to his or her own values.

This noble position seems a long way from the idea that we must allow Peter Adonis to perform and the local movie rental establishment to carry "Debbie Does Dallas." But the fact of the matter is that if we allow government to suppress these things, then we have little grounds upon which to criticize the repression of ideas in the Soviet Union or South Africa or Iran. As long as we allow censorship to exist, then absolutely nothing — not Kurt Vonnegut nor Shakespeare nor the Bible itself — is safe from the censor's flames.

No Censorship

I do not care for pornography, and I do not buy it myself, but I find censorship far more offensive and obscene.

The Citizens Against Pornography simply do not know what they are talking about. Many studies show that censorship leads to more sex crimes than anything else.

Japan, for example, which has the lowest crime rate in the world has absolutely no laws about obscenity at all.

In Europe, they have nude statues not only in museums but out in the public street and even in the churches (Adam and Eve, the sinners in Hell, naked cherubs). Their crime rate is far lower than ours. In Brussels, there is a fountain in the main square, hundreds of years old, with a naked boy on top, and the water coming out just where it would in a real boy.

Furthermore, the existing law is too vague. Those calling for strict enforcement do not realize that the law can be interpreted to ban crucifixes and other religious objects, to ban sermons or counseling on sexually oriented topics, to ban religious books such as lives of the martyrs or guides for parents of adolescents, even to ban the Bible.

They do not seem to realize that in order to protect their own rights and freedom, they must be willing to concede the same rights to others.

Reform of the state obscenity statutes is needed.

Bunny Davis Brown, Florence

Poor are the losers on minimum wage

In her recent letter opposing the sub-minimum wage for teenagers, Ms. Salisbury implies that the sub-minimum wage would be unjust and would result in teenagers receiving less money. The first implication is correct, but the second is incorrect.

It is wrong to treat teenagers differently, but the best way to help low-income and unemployed persons is to get rid of all minimum wage laws. These laws hurt unemployed persons the most, especially blacks and teenagers.

Dr. Walter Williams, a black economics professor at George Mason University, has pointed out that minimum wage laws result in high unemployment rates among minorities and teenagers. Businesses do not pay more money to low-income, inexperienced persons when the minimum wage goes up. They just don't hire these persons. Every time the minimum wage has gone up, so has the unemployment rate.

Libertarians, along with a few Republicans and one or two Democrats, realize that the only people helped by the minimum wage are those persons who would make that much money anyway. It pro-

tections them from any competition from lower-income persons. The real losers in this game are poor persons hunting for their first job, as Dr. Williams points out.

Minimum wage laws and unemployment go hand in hand. You can't have the first without the second. If you want to do something about unemployment, you have to get rid of the minimum wage, and you have to reinstate the free market.

DAVID MORRIS
Editor

Sandhills Libertarian Gazette
P.O. Box 2297
West Columbia

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Anti-Porn Group Threat to Individual Freedom

While the battle against pornography rages, one fact seems to be greatly understated—no one is ever forced to purchase objectionable material of any sort. Every American has the right to spend their earnings on whatever they so choose; except, of course, the large and ever-increasing portion the government takes. Obscenity is a matter of personal taste, and one never has to expose himself to that which offends—by choice. I find censorship obscene; the very idea of not being able to choose my own reading or music offends me.

Groups like the Citizens Against Pornography, Moral Majority, etc., who pool their resources to buy politicians, are a definite threat to individual freedom. They are hell-bent on legislation that would force all of us to live as they do. Their moral politics should be confined to their churches. If they were intelligent, rather than fanatic, they would realize that throughout history, the legislation of morality has failed. In order to be effective, morality needs to be practiced in the home and encouraged by the church. When the government

dictates the moral values of its citizenry, what will be the function of clergy? When the government gets control over what is read, looked upon, or listened to, what purpose will the parent serve? How will we teach our children to think for themselves? Censorship can only close eyes, ears and minds, and anyone who can't seem to understand how dangerous it is, simply hasn't learned to think. God gave us the intelligence to decide, not follow blindly.

While not an advocate of pornography, I will always defend my right to choose. If we do not do everything to protect our liberty, we will be following in the footsteps of Hitler and his kind, rather than those of Thomas Jefferson and our kind.

Henry Dargan McMaster would do well to use his talents to prosecute thieves, rapists, and murderers instead of putting loincloths on statues. I'm sure that our tax dollars could be spent on something other than the stroking of religious leaders that can better his political career.

Cynthia Sullivan, Myrtle Beach

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Ronald H. Heaton, Aiken

Morals a Family Responsibility

I have been reading recently that the fine city of Florence is considering passing an ordinance against what is defined as pornography. Pornography being material that depicts erotic behavior and is intended to cause sexual excitement. This is a very broad area which could easily go beyond the bounds which separate a free society like ours from the totalitarian societies of eastern Europe, communist Asia and Africa.

The Libertarian Party (I am the South Carolina party chairman) has a history of supporting the rights of the individual. In a free society there is always going to be things that we do not like (example:

Hustler magazine and its editor). However, while we may disagree with everything that it stands for, we must defend the rights of the least with the rights of the most. As long as force and fraud are not used to produce or sell this material I feel that there is little to be gained by passing more laws.

For too long the government has interfered with the morals of individual citizens—it is the obligation of the family to set the morals of young adults, not the government. When there is no longer a market for these materials, they will cease to be produced.

FREEDOM OR SLAVERY?

By Rev. R. J. Rushdoony

One of the interesting facts about the United States is the amount of land owned by the Federal Government. In Alaska, 90% of the state is federally owned; in Nevada, it is 87%; Utah, 65%; Idaho, 64%; Oregon, 52%; Arizona, 45%; California, 44%, and so on down the line. Supposedly, these lands are kept in trust for the people, but in reality private conservation groups and corporations have done and can do a better job of it.

But this is not all. We need to ask the question, how much of us do the Federal, state, and local agencies of civil government own? About five to ten years ago, we were told that between 40% to 45% of our income went for direct or hidden taxes; some now place that estimate at 50% to 60%. Whichever figure is right, it constitutes a very big share of our income.

Slavery is defined as a property right in the labor of other men. If you own a slave, it means that he must work for you. Very obviously, through taxation, civil government now owns about half of us, and this means that we are half slaves, whatever else we may call ourselves.

When the federal government, more than a century ago, abolished slavery, it abolished only the private ownership of slaves, not public ownership. In fact, all over the world, slavery is more common than ever before. In the communist bloc, all the people are slaves of the state. In the democracies, we are half slaves and half free.

What we need is an emancipation proclamation from slavery to the modern state. You can be sure that neither Washington, D.C., nor the state house will issue any such charter of freedom on its own. Only if we, the people, compel them to do so will the various branches of civil government disgorge their powers over us.

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Demo Divorces Public Servants?

I see that 4th District Rep. Butler Derrick is getting a divorce from his second wife.

Why do this state's Democratic congressmen seem to think they have to try for Henry VIII's record of six wives? I refer not only to the several marriages of Rev. Robin Tallon, but the former congressman (including John Jenrette and Ken Holland) as well.

These fellows are ahead of Henry's schedule. He was still married to his first wife when he was 40.

John T. Harlike, Florence

On Jan. 8 my wife called the Florence County dog pound to request that a stray dog that had taken up at our house be picked up.

Two days later, two men in a truck (from the pound) pulled into our driveway and blew the horn. When my wife went out they said they were there to pick up the dog. But they just sat in the truck while my wife went for the dog, brought it back and put it in the cage on the truck. These "public servants" did not bother to get out of the truck and assist her at any time. This was a day when it rained and there was ice.

Our taxes pay these "public servants" salaries. Just who is the public servant here?

Dennis L. Drew, Florence

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POWER OVER THE PEOPLE

In a recent (May, 1982) trial of a church (in Texas), a four-page complaint was filed against the church by the Dept. of Human Resources (or welfare dept.). One of the charges or complaints was with respect to a goldfish bowl in the nursery:

"If there are animals on the premises the facility shall have a licensed veterinarian evaluate animals annually to determine which ones need to be examined and vaccinated. Examinations, vaccinations, and treatment shall be given as the veterinarian recommends.

"Non-Compliance: It was observed that the veterinarian's statement for the fish was not on file."

Another item: a retired army colonel, a very good friend of Chalcedon, reported on a problem faced by one of his sons. A young photographer, he is currently working supermarket and shopping center parking lots. He photographs children mounted on his pony. He was arrested for operating without a license. Since he covers 82 different city jurisdictions in a metropolitan area, 82 licenses would put him out of business. All that a license does is to provide each city with revenue. When arrested, he was called "worse than a criminal" by the judge, fined \$350, given a suspended sentence of one year, and told that he would get a year in jail if picked up again. (Many rapists are less severely treated.) The state is more a threat to this young photographer than it is to most criminals.

The modern state is failing to provide justice. Its main goal is increasing power over the people. The cry of our statist is "power to the people," but their goal is the tyranny of power over the people.

Rome fell, not because of the barbarians, but because of its own evils. The tens of thousands of barbarians could not have defeated the millions of Romans, if the Romans had defended Rome. After generations of tyranny and oppressive taxation, the people of Rome no longer felt Rome was worth fighting for, and they simply refused to defend it.

As the power of the modern state increases all over the world, we are approaching a similar disillusionment. The patriots of Rome loved Rome for its past glories, not for its then current tyrannies. Similarly, the patriots of various modern states are often patriots because they value their past, their heritage and traditions. As the modern state lays waste that inherited capital, it invites on itself the whirlwind of judgment.

Rev. Rousas John Rushdoony

Violence and fear stalk many public schools. A special crime commission reported in Boston recently that 40 percent of students and half the teachers were crime victims last year. Three out of ten students reported that they have carried weapons to school at some time.

Reason? Multiple: Erosion of the national morality; failure of parents and School Boards to do their jobs; forced racial integration,

Freedom hinges on responsibility

I read with some interest Jim Harris' article in *The News & Shopper* dated August 7. I cannot help but feel that he and many others of this community have failed to see the issues that are at hand in their true context.

He, like many others, seems to equate freedom with a type of lawlessness in an absence of any rules. It has been suggested that we are all free to do as we choose, but that that freedom ends at our neighbor's nose. Although this view is very simplistic, I feel that it exemplifies the freedom that we as Americans possess.

In light of the recent furor over "pornography" in Florence, this view is very helpful. If the stores and businesses which are alleged to be involved in the sale and distribution of pornography were taking people by force and forcing them to view material which is damaging to their sensibilities, I would be the first to admit that some action were needed. However, citizens of Florence must go out of their way and truly desire to view such material in order to gain access to it.

The other aspect of this furor is that this is an area where definitions are purely subjective. All one needs to do to see that this is true is to look at the incidents which started the ruckus. To my knowledge, the igniting force was the booking of two shows from Peter Adonis at Dimensions. There was an immediate outcry from the churches in the area to close it down. This without gathering any evidence of the true nature of the show, and without consideration of any facts other than the opinions of those opposing the shows.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Thieves in Orange County, CA took \$70 of edible women's underwear in assorted flavors, a vibrator, 2 nightgowns, and cash. (Daily Pilot/FFW) The cash was to pay for the motel room, no doubt.

To qualify for federal funds, California is changing state highway 17 to Interstate 880, at a cost of \$380,000 just to replace the signs. (FFW)

New England Journal of Medicine reports that 36% of hospital patients contract an infection that they didn't have when they came in.

National health service in Zimbabwe won't pay witch-doctors for medical services, and the witch-doctors are cursing the NHS. (FFW) If it works, let's import a few to see what they can do with the IRS and other pests.

"Be thankful for the problems, for if they were less difficult, someone with less ability would have your job." - Funny Funny World

To anyone who saw either show, those who opposed them can only appear as a group totally ignorant of the facts. The simple truth of the matter is that the shows were done in good taste, without any actions that could be considered in any way to be pornographic. If this serves as the definition of pornography, the logical conclusion is that we must close the beaches, eliminate network television, as well as "National Geographic" and Sears catalogs.

Lastly, any freedom implies a responsibility to exercise that freedom in such a way as not to restrict the freedom of others. Thus, the statement that our freedom to swing our fists around ends at another's nose. Ironically for those of the "Free Will Baptist Church", where there is no freedom of choice, there is no free will. Where there is no free will, there is no sin and no goodness, just a choiceless adherence to the will that is imposed upon us by others. Certainly, this is not the way that we were intended to live out our lives.

To answer your allegations concerning certain other "freedoms." Any freedom brings with it the obligation to responsibly exercise that freedom. Obviously, nudists on main street would impinge on the freedom of others to stay away from such. However, if nudists desire to gather as a group in a truly private place, this is a true exercise of their freedom. The bullfight, cockfight or dogfight is a violation of the freedoms of the bull, cock or dog.

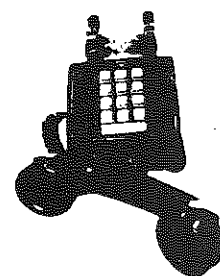
When I lived in Charleston, I lived next door to a house which had been converted to a church by a self-styled minister. His choice of a means in which to exercise his freedom of religion was to install an eight-track tape player and a sound system with speakers on the outside of his house. He turned it on at 8 a.m. and off at 10 p.m. In his own words, "God told me to spread the gospel, the first amendment gave me that freedom, and I am going to do it any way I see fit."

That is ludicrous, but a perfect example of how religious zealots take the exact mistaken idea of freedom which was portrayed in the column. We asked him numerous times to desist to no avail. Finally, the courts found for us, and ordered him to cease. The bottom line is that the same Constitution which gave him "freedom of religion" also gives me freedom from that religion should I choose such.

I sincerely hope that this ordinance is not passed. If it is, it will surely take away from all of us not only the freedom to view materials which a few feel pornographic, but also the freedom not to view such. As I have said before, without responsibility, there is no freedom. Without this freedom, there is no choice. Without choice, there is no sin, or no absence of such.

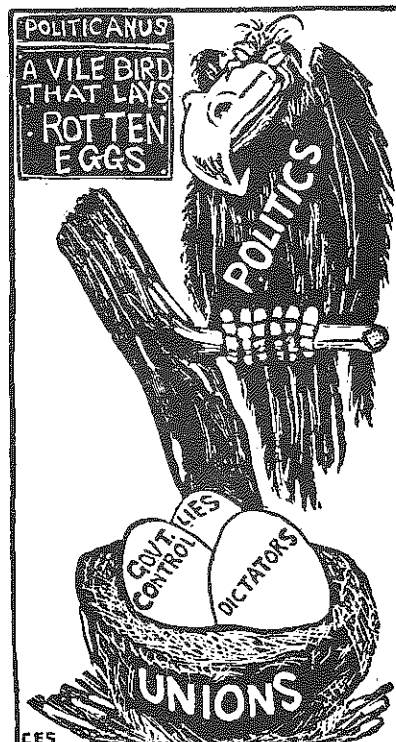
Dale J. Chatham
Florence

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UNDERGROUND



Some problems do not get solved, they only get older.

Dr. Chaim Weizmann



Industrial Worker, January 7, 1939.

Women Can't Be Rehabilitated...

In Alaska, if a battered woman brings a charge of assault against her husband and later decides not to testify against him, she faces contempt of court charges and risks being thrown in jail regardless of her reasons for dropping the charge. On CSB radio, an Alaska official rationalized throwing women in jail even when they decide not to testify "for very good reasons," but said of men "we don't want to send these guys to jail, we want to rehabilitate them." At least one Alaska woman has spent the night in jail for this charge.

—Big mama Rag

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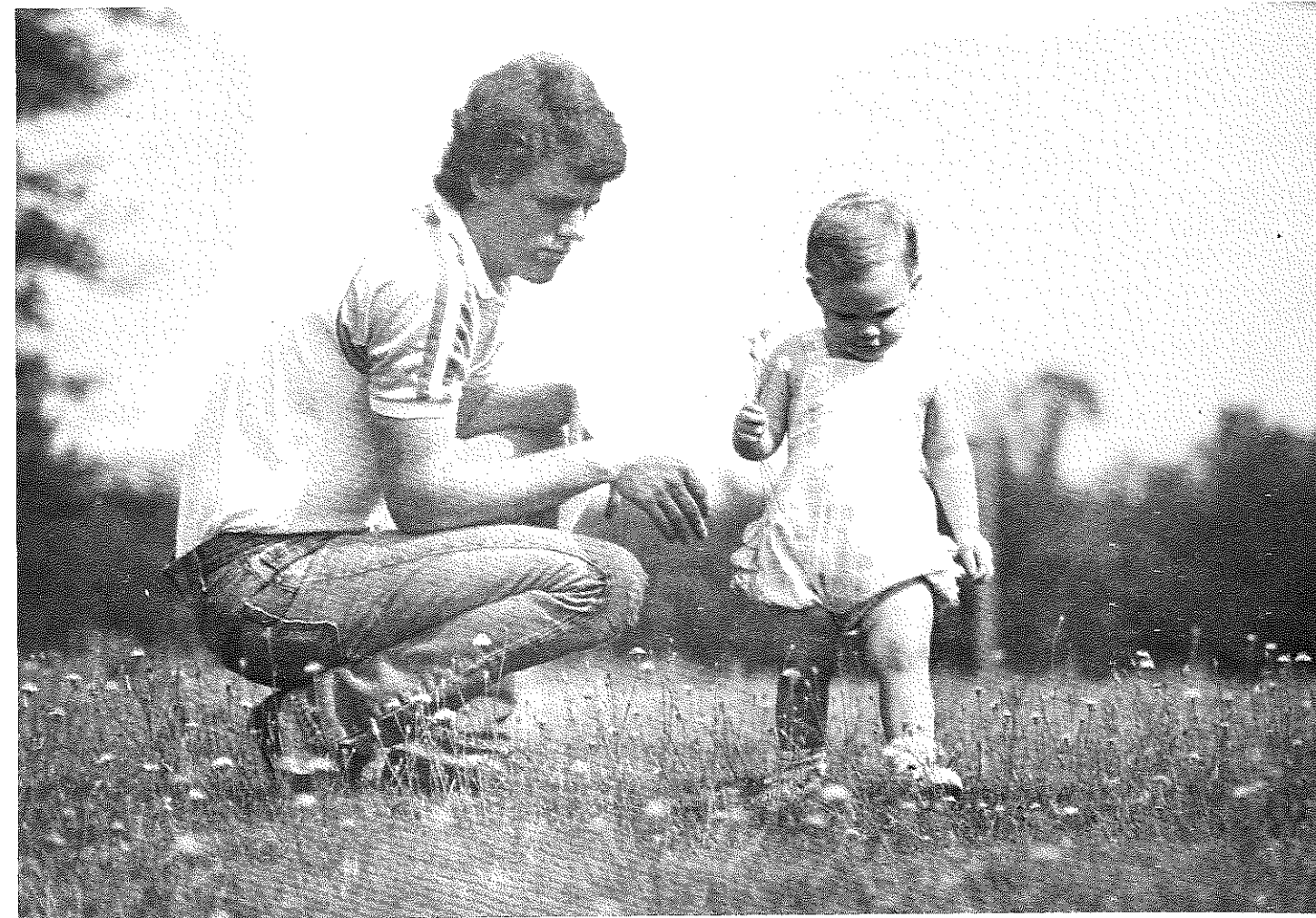


PHOTO BY STEPHEN BUEL / SPECTRUM

"Where is it written in the Constitution that you may take children from their parents, and parents from their children, and compel them to fight the battles of any war in which the folly or wickedness of government may engage it?"

DANIEL WEBSTER 1814

On July 2, 1985, Paul Jacob was imprisoned for resisting the Military Draft Registration Program.

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