



The

Libertarian Alternative

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Lady Liberty
symbol of the
Libertarian Party



Symbol of the drive for
personal and economic
freedoms and
responsibilities

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Political enlightenment

by Amber Tsujioka

Throughout my ludicrously insane teenage years I have never once comprehended the rules and regulations that were forced upon me. I, as the majority of young people today, have encountered many restrictions, unfair decisions, and destructive policies, which are only placed on us by the government because we are the youth. These

government officials, or overpaid senile men, should not be allowed to ignore our own, individual needs simply because we don't meet the government age requirement of being an adult. I strongly believe that we as a free society should come together for the future and eliminate these burdens which are placed upon us. We do not deserve to be dehumanized any longer because of a simple factor such as our age.

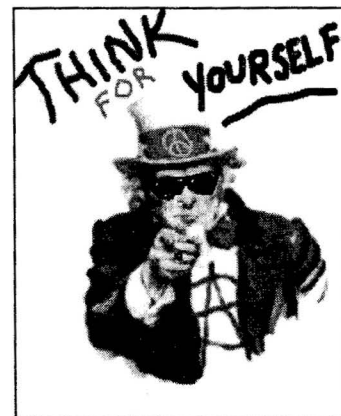


Amber Tsujioka

I have always believed that regardless of our age we should be treated equally and we should not be thrown into any category or generalization. There may be many of us teenagers who are not aware of political aspects, but it is only because our government shelters us from what we truly deserve, our freedom. The only way we can accomplish this is through activism and nonconformity, so we can alter people's negative views about our youth.

Prior to this year, I despised the entire political process because I

— See *Political*, p. 7



What is the Libertarian Party?

The Libertarian Party is your representative in American politics. It is the only political organization which respects you as a unique and competent individual.

America's heritage

Libertarians believe in the American heritage of liberty, free enterprise and personal responsibility. Libertarians recognize the responsibility we all share to preserve this precious heritage for our children and grandchildren.

Free and independent

Libertarians believe that being free and independent is a great way to live. We want a system which encourages all people to choose what they want from life, that lets them live, love, work, play and dream their own way.

*“Who should
set the rules
for your
children —
you or the
government?”*

— See *What*, p. 6



The
Libertarian Alternative

Place
stamp
here

The Essence of Liberty

By David F. Nolan

As a founder of the Libertarian Party, I am often asked how to tell if someone is "really" a libertarian.

There are probably as many different definitions of the word "libertarian" as there are people who claim the label. These range from overly broad ("anyone who calls himself a libertarian is one") to impossibly doctrinaire ("only those who agree with every word in the party platform are truly anointed"). My own definition is that in order to be considered a libertarian, at least in the political context, an individual must adhere without compromise to five key points.

Ideally, of course, we'd all be in agreement on everything. But we're not, and probably never will be. Debate is likely to continue indefinitely on such matters as abortion, foreign policy and whether, when and how various government programs can be discontinued or privatized. But as far as I'm concerned, if one is sound on these five points, he/she is *de facto* a libertarian; if he/she fails on even one of the five, he/she isn't.

What, then, are the "indispensable five" — the points of no compromise?

1. You Own Yourself

First and foremost, libertarians believe in the principle of self-ownership. You own your own body and mind; no external power has the right to force you into the service of "society" or "mankind" or any other individual or group for any purpose, however noble. Slavery is wrong, period.

Because you own yourself, you are responsible for your own well-being. Others are not obligated to feed you, clothe you, or provide you with health care. Most of us choose to help one another voluntarily, for a variety of reasons — and that's as it should be — but "forced compassion" is an oxymoron, a contradiction in terms.

2. The Right to Self-Defense

Self-ownership implies the right to self-defense. Libertarians yield to no one in their support for our right as individuals to keep and bear arms. We only wish that the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution said "The right to self-defense being inalienable..." instead of that stuff about a "well-regulated militia". Anyone who thinks that government — any government — has the right to disarm its citizens is NOT a libertarian!

3. No "Criminal Possession" Laws

In fact, libertarians believe that individuals have the right to own and use anything — gold, guns, marijuana, sexually explicit material — so long as they do not harm others through force or the threat of force. Laws criminalizing the simple possession of anything are tailor-made for police states; it is all too easy to plant a forbidden substance in someone's home, car or pocket. Libertarians are as tough on crime — real crime — as anyone. But criminal possession laws are an affront to liberty, whatever the rhetoric used to defend them.

4. No Taxes on Productivity

In an ideal world, there would be no taxation. All services would be paid for on an as-used basis. But in a less-than-ideal world, some services will be force-financed for the foreseeable future. However, not all taxes are equally deleterious, and the worst form of taxation is a tax on productivity — i.e. an "income" tax — and no libertarian supports this type of taxation.

What kind of taxation is least harmful? This is a topic still open for debate. My own preference is for a single tax on land. Is this "the" libertarian position on taxes? No. But all libertarians oppose any form of income tax.

5. A Sound Money System

The fifth and final key test of anyone's claim to being a libertarian is their support for an honest money system; i.e. one where the currency is backed by something of true value (usually gold or silver). Fiat money — money with no backing, whose acceptance is mandated by the State — is simply legalized counterfeiting and is one of the keys to expanding government power.

The five points enumerated here are not a complete, comprehensive prescription for freedom... but they would take us most of the way. A government which cannot conscript, confiscate or counterfeit, and which imposes no criminal penalties for the mere possession and peaceful use of anything, is one that almost all libertarians would be comfortable with. — *Permission to reprint granted by the author. David F. Nolan is a founder of the Libertarian Party.*

About the Libertarian Party

The Libertarian Party, America's third largest political party, was founded in Colorado in December 1971. The party now functions in all 50 states. Over 250 Libertarians hold office around the country — but you don't hear much about us in the media because our views are a threat to the nation's political establishment.

The California party was founded the following year, May 1972. It has the largest membership of any state. Libertarian officeholders in California include Thomas Tryon, Calaveras County Supervisor; Art Olivier, Mayor of Bellflower; Bonnie Flickinger, Moreno Valley City Council; Robert A. Noble, Arcata City Council; and Norman L. Vroman, Mendocino County District Attorney. Nearly 100 other state Libertarians serve in appointed positions on school boards, water districts, and various community commissions.

For more information, check these web sites:

<http://www.215now.com>

<http://www.lp.org>

<http://www.fff.org/freedom/daily/>

<http://www.self-gov.org>

Why a pledge of non-initiation of force?

You may have heard about or noticed the Libertarian Party pledge and wondered what it was all about.

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

The Libertarian Party is the only political entity requiring such an oath from those who wish to be voting members of the national and many state parties, including California. It has been a part of Libertarian principles since the party was formed in 1971. The wisdom of its development was as important during the protests against U.S. involvement in Vietnam as it was in the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing. The pledge is simple and straightforward, although some people do find fault with it.

The word "initiation" means first use, as in aggression or pre-emptive action. The government uses threats, or force, of many kinds in implementing its many onerous laws regulating and restricting our personal and economic lives. This force generally expresses itself in punitive fines or imprisonment; occasionally it is by use of arms. Libertarians support the use of self-defense in defending one's life, liberty and property. A good example is the Revolution, in which American colonists fought for the right to secede from the harsh British rule under George III.

In brief, Libertarians will not start trouble, but they reserve the right to defend themselves.



Radio talk show hosts have helped greatly in spreading Libertarian ideas. Shown here are George Calvin Booth (left) and Maggie Maguire (far right) on KSCY-AM, Yreka, CA, interviewing 1998 California Secretary of State Libertarian candidate Gail Lightfoot.

Guns and the right to self-defense

Libertarians agree with the majority of Americans who believe they have the right to decide how best to protect themselves, their families and their property. It was written into the Constitution as the Second Amendment. Millions of Americans have guns in their homes and sleep more easily because of it. Studies show that where gun ownership is illegal, residential burglaries are higher. A man with a gun in his home is no threat to you if you aren't breaking into it.

The police do not provide security in your home, your business or the street. They show up after the crime to take reports and do detective work.

Interviews with convicted felons tell us they are less likely to commit a particular crime if there is a strong possibility a potential victim might be armed. This was apparent

Tired?

- Tired of being left out?
- Tired of being left out, when you're right?
- Tired of being left right out of politics?
- Tired of left-right politics?

Then join the Libertarian Party today!

during the looting that followed the Los Angeles riots. It is apparent in statistics from the 31 states with "right to carry" laws. Gun ownership makes neighborhoods safer.

Foolish politicians and self-serving police seek to ban many types of handguns and rifles. They ignore the fact that only honest citizens will comply; criminals will still have them. Such a ban will only increase the criminals' ability to victimize the innocent.

Gun control advocates talk as if guns could act on their own, as if human beings cannot control them. Guns are not the problem. They are inanimate objects. Responsibility belongs with the user of the gun. If he or she acts responsibly, no crime or harm has been done. Leave them in peace. But, if a person commits a crime with a gun, then impose the severest penalties for the injuries done to the victim. Similarly, hold the negligent gun user fully liable for all harm his or her action does to others.

Rather than banning guns, politicians and the police should encourage gun ownership, as well as education and training programs. A responsible, well-armed and trained citizenry is the best protection. America's founders knew that. It is still true today.

"Flax is so injurious to our lands, and so scanty produce, that I have never attempted (using) it. Hemp, on the other hand, is abundantly productive and will grow forever on the same spot."

— Thomas Jefferson, Monticello, VA,
Journal entry of Dec. 29, 1815.

Gov't solution to the crime problem



"But...but...my watch says it's only 9:45!"

Curfews

Curfew laws have been a controversial subject since time immemorial. Recently they were the subject of an episode of the TV animated series, The Simpsons. The process has been likened to house arrest. Civil libertarians contend such laws are unconstitutional, give police too much discretionary power and turn law-abiding citizens into criminals.

The word curfew derives from the Old French phrase *couvre-feu*, meaning to cover the fire. During the Middle Ages, a bell would be rung at a specified hour every evening as a signal to the townspeople to rake up their fires (bank them with ashes), put out all lights and retire.

Despots have used the technique to control inhabitants of occupied countries or their own people in times of revolt against stringent laws.

In the U.S., many cities had curfew laws for decades but the laws faded out in the 1950s, according to Univ. of South Carolina criminologist William Ruefle. In the wake of rising teenage crime since the early 1990s, some 1,000 cities nationwide have some type of curfew, including three-fourths of the nation's 200 largest cities (those having populations greater than 100,000). It is promoted as a concerted effort to fight crime and to foster parental responsibility. Countering that, Arthur Spitzer, a legal director with the American Civil Liberties Union, was quoted in a Feb. 3, 1997, *Insight Magazine* article as saying, "The fact that 5 percent of teenagers commit crimes is not a good reason for imposing a curfew on the 95 percent who don't."

Common sense says that anyone who wants to commit a crime is not going to be stopped by some law. What a curfew law does tell us is that it considers youth untrustworthy and their parents incapable of making fundamental decisions about their children. It punishes the majority while doing very little to stop the relatively small number of destructive or violent teenagers. It is also discriminatory because it affects a group of individuals who are not yet of voting age and cannot effectively voice their opposition.

Libertarians are against such ordinances. They violate individuals' First Amendment rights of freedom to assemble and to associate. They are also expensive to regulate, a wasteful use of law enforcement, and authoritarian.

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Ask Dr. Ruwart

How can you answer difficult questions about libertarianism — in short, positive, persuasive soundbite-sized responses? It's a challenge every libertarian communicator faces.

Dr. Mary Ruwart is a leading expert in libertarian communication and author of the international bestseller "Healing Our World." Her new book is "Short Answers to the Tough Questions." In her column, "Ask Dr. Ruwart," she provides *Liberator Online* readers with "Short Answers to the



Dr. Mary Ruwart

Tough Questions" that libertarians are frequently asked.

Throughout this issue, you will find some of her short answers to questions Libertarians are often asked. Read them. They will help you respond easily to those tough questions.

If you'd like effective answers for YOUR "tough questions" on libertarian issues, just email the questions to her at: ruwart@self-gov.org. (Due to volume, Dr. Ruwart can't personally answer or acknowledge all e-mail queries.) Advocates runs the best questions — and Dr. Ruwart's answers — in issues of *Liberator Online*.

Dr. Ruwart's past answers are archived in searchable form at the Advocates' Web page: <http://www.self-gov.org/ruwart>.

The Truth About Your Country's Biggest Problem

Can you handle the truth about where your country is heading?

Here's the truth. If you are neither lower class nor wealthy, or if you prefer an unusual lifestyle, your freedom and your opportunity to improve your life will continue to be under incessant and continuous attack unless a major change is made.

Your freedom and growth opportunities are under attack, not by a tyrannical foreign government like Hitler's or Stalin's in the past, or of Saddam Hussein's or Castro's in the present. They are under attack by those good old boys at our

...there...is something that can be done about it...voting for real and substantial reform...

Capitol buildings, as they ever expand the governments you keep electing or don't bother to vote against year after year. Yes – the truth is that you and millions like you are the cause of your own ever-increasing loss of freedom to live as you please, loss of money to taxation, loss of time to filling out forms and worrying about excessive laws and regulations to obey, and loss of free market solutions for many societal and economic problems, prevented by government restrictions. It's like Pogo Possum's, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

In short, the truth is that almost invariably, *government is the cause of, not the solution to, our problems*. So when you keep voting for one of the old parties promising you "reforms," you are unintentionally voting to perpetuate and very likely even worsen the problems you hope they'll solve. If they haven't solved them already, why would you believe they will suddenly solve them now? Does a leopard change its spots?

More laws taking away freedoms

The truth is that, with every month that goes by, *more and more laws taking away our freedoms or money* are passed by legislators at all governmental levels, each infatuated with power, each seeking the glory of having his name permanently emblazoned on yet one more bill that will take away another freedom from or put another burden on some of us subjects. "Some of us" is the key to their strategy. If all their impositions were placed on all of us at once, they know we'd revolt at the ballot box and throw them out. So they divide and conquer, a strategy Napoleon, Hitler, and other aggressors have used successfully throughout history. Each special interest group uses the government to impose its agenda on us via lobbying the legislature, and unless it hits you or me hard we may not even notice. Sometimes we may even applaud when it hits a group or class we don't like. But when it hits us, we'll notice and how! Then we'll scream and complain, and plead with others to help us. But of course, those who are unaffected won't notice or care, just as we didn't. Ultimately, like the famous "water drops on the forehead" torture treatment, noxious laws and regulations will keep piling up until many of us can't take it anymore. And that's about where we are now. Yet most people don't think anything can be done about it, and so they hunker down, inured to the assault of an excessive government, hoping that somehow it will right itself if they just vote out the worse of the two old parties – the "lesser of two evils" theory. But the truth is *the lesser of two evils is still evil*.

There is something you can do

And the sad truth is that although *there really is something that can be done about it*, you won't hear about it through any normal channels. That something is not voting for the lesser of the two evil old parties like we've all tried to do without success for so long. That something is voting for real and substantial reform by

voting in a new party with an old proven philosophy – one with the goal of restoring the philosophy of the founding fathers that made this country great – the philosophy of individual freedom and personal responsibility. The philosophy of a government small enough to need no income tax. Yes, you read right – *no income tax!*

The truth is *the only party offering you that option is the Libertarian Party*.

The truth is that around the world today, and historically, *libertarianism is the solution*. To the extent that a country is libertarian, it is prosperous and enjoyable to live in. One only has to observe Hong Kong under transition from a relatively free social and economic system to a system increasingly controlled by the communist government of China, and the exodus of money and people from it, to verify the truth of this principle. Ditto for the rise of the U.S.A. during the massive influx of people from Europe from 1865 to 1920 and from Asia and south of our border today.

Most laws would be unconstitutional

The truth is that most of the federal and state laws and regulations plaguing us would be declared unconstitutional *if the Supreme Court would read the plain language of the Constitution and abide by it*. But that would give them little discretionary power, and they like power. So they "interpret" it. As a consequence, they, and the legislators – especially the federal legislators – and the President, and the governors, and the other federal and state elected officials repeatedly break their sworn oaths to uphold the U.S. Constitution. And although accepting payment for a job which one has contracted to perform subject to a false promise, is purely and simply a felony – fraud – they get away with it with impunity. If any of us were to lie to get a job, these same judges and elected officials would have us sent to prison for fraud without a second thought. But not so themselves. So, as strange and bizarre as it may appear, we are all being governed by a legion of undicted violators of the very same document which legitimizes their power!

The truth is that the Constitution shows that most of this country's Founding Fathers were libertarians who believed in a very, very limited government at all levels, especially the federal level. Those founders would undoubtedly roll over in their graves if they could see how the limitations they thought they had placed on government power in writing the Constitution have been so blatantly ignored and usurped by the passage of almost every kind of law imaginable, decade after decade after decade.

Unintended consequences

The truth is that the *unconstitutional laws* being passed that take away far more power and money from you than was ever intended by the founders, *have had many harmful intended and unintended consequences, aggravated by rules and regula-*

*Libertarian principles are. . .straightforward.
Laws based on them would be more just, . . .*

tions created by career bureaucrats. Occasionally some of their inequitable or noxious consequences are discovered by reporters and publicized, resulting in a patch quilt of "fixes" that make the laws incomprehensible, not only to the citizens at large, but also to the lawyers, who can not predict with confidence what the outcome will be in court. *By contrast Libertarian principles are simple, natural and straightforward. Laws based on them would be more just, and intuitively predictable by most people without a lawyer, so they could conduct their everyday business with confidence.*

So, you may wonder, if Libertarian principles are so attractive, *why is it that you rarely hear about this point of view from the press?* Why is it that most of the press (which the founders had hoped, when they decided to add the First Amendment to the Constitution assuring freedom of the press, would be the vigilant force to alert us to transgressions of the powers given the branches of government by the Constitution) never tell you about the Constitution being repeatedly ignored or about Lib-

ertarian principles? The answer again is power – personal power. *The reporters and columnists like power, too. And the bigger the government they can influence to implement and impose their ideas on us, the bigger the power they wield.* If that isn't motive enough, they also don't want to work any harder than they have to; and the greater the power of government, the easier it is for them to find big stories. They only need to hang out at the seats of government power – the Capitol buildings, the White House and governors' offices, the courts, the city halls, and the police stations. So even though they are not directly controlled by the government as in a totalitarian state, they have a vested interest in seeing to it that the government is big and powerful. *And to effectuate that scenario, they influence the poli-*

... cut your government's size and cost by voting Libertarian ...

iticians by spinning the news to control public opinion, including, whether you realize it or not, your opinion. You may be a very smart and logical person, but your conclusions can be arrived at only from the facts and opinions you receive from the media as news and commentary. And by selecting and emphasizing what they will report to you, and slanting how it is stated they are able to lead you to come to the political outlook they want you to have — to believe that government is the protector of your freedoms and your livelihood, when as operated by the old parties, government for most of us is just the opposite. Even the few reporters who don't like the old parties' ways must cooperate with government sources or risk losing access to breaking news.

Vested interest in power

As if the bias of the press weren't enough, *the government bureaucracy also enjoys power.* And it also has a vested interest in growing a bigger, more powerful, and more expensive government for them to run. The way the bureaucracy fosters government growth and power is very much like the press does it – by slanting informational reports to induce the politicians and the media, and through them, or sometimes directly, the public, to form opinions they want us to have.

Under this constant brainwashing, is it any wonder that despite our democratic elections that give you repeated opportunities to cut your government's size and cost by voting Libertarian the old parties have consistently received your vote? *But just to make doubly sure you won't become aware of your alternatives and vote them out, they have rigged the election process to perpetuate their power by making it practically impossible for any other party to get an equal chance to tell you its philosophy and seek your vote.* Their method of doing this is three-fold:

- (1) They make access to the ballot by other parties difficult and expensive with the intent of nipping new parties in the bud;
- (2) They write laws to funnel tax money to parties in proportion to their private donations, but only if the donations exceed an arbitrary minimum not achievable by small parties, and
- (3) Their adherents sponsor TV debates omitting other parties.

Thus they magnify the monetary and publicity advantage they already enjoy over newcomers, and starve out the smallest newcomers altogether. In addition, as a further safeguard to their power, they limit donations from any one person other than the candidate himself, to forestall an upstart party backed by a few wealthy advocates (notwithstanding the fact that the press would expose such concentrated backing and attempt to rip apart the reputation of the leaders of such a movement as they did to Perot and the Reform Party in '96).

Breaking the downward spiral

Now you know the truth. The old parties are confiscating our money and our freedoms while expanding an ever larger and more burdensome government. Only the Libertarian Party wants to break this downward spiral. But because the media and the bureaucrats feed you information designed to make big government look necessary and good, and because the old parties use tactics that effectively rig election campaign practices to block other parties from reaching you with their

message, we members of the Libertarian Party are pursuing the only avenue we have left. We are relying on a truly grass roots political process called LIFE (for Libertarians Informing Friends Efficiently), by personally offering this publication you are now holding, as the only practical way to get a description of our party's principles to you and other non-libertarians.

Thank you for taking the time to read this tabloid. We hope it has convinced you that *this may be your only chance to find out exactly what the Libertarian Party offers in the political arena.* Please take advantage of this opportunity. It'll clearly prove that you can handle the truth!

Respectfully yours,

Marvin B. Rudin

Chairman, Libertarian Party of Santa Clara County.

☞ *Get the full story at www.lpty.org/p.* ☜

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Starting political learning young



A group of youngsters ply Rodney Austin (far right), Fresno, CA, activist, with questions about Libertarian ideas at a Northern California barbecue. Later, Austin said he was fascinated with their keen understanding of personal freedom and responsibility.

The Social Security scam

In 1984, David Bergland wrote a book entitled *Libertarianism in One Lesson*. At the time, Bergland was the Libertarian candidate for U.S. President. Today, he is national chair of the Libertarian Party.

Among the topics he discussed, Bergland had this to say about Social Security: "Today, many older Americans think of the old age benefits under Social Security as the primary source of their retirement. But the system was not designed to serve that purpose.

"Unfortunately, the government has put out much misinformation about Social Security, how it works and what it can do. We have been told that Social Security is some sort of insurance, investment or pension plan. People think that they have paid 'into' Social Security. This is a mistake. The Social Security System is only a program whereby working people are taxed and the money is immediately paid out to people who are retired. There is no pool of money that anyone paid 'into' which still exists as a retirement or investment fund."

Fifteen years later, nothing has changed. There has been a lot of talk by government leaders, but no constructive action. Think tanks such as the Cato Institute and the Reason Foundation have proposed privatizing Social Security to take it out of government hands and into investment programs that would give beneficiaries better control of their money and increased benefits. Chile has done just that, with the people able to retire on two or three times more income than under the previous system, without increasing taxes. It has also been a boon to the general economy. Several other countries around the world have adopted the Chilean system.

Libertarians say that it is time to take Social Security out of the hands of government and empower the people by letting us privatize our retirement program and controlling our own destiny.

— from page 1

What is the Libertarian Party?

Caring for people

The Libertarian way is a caring, people-centered approach to politics. We believe each individual is unique. We want a system which respects the individual and encourages us to discover the best within ourselves and develop our full potential.

Principled; Consistent

The Libertarian way is a logically consistent approach to politics based on the moral principle of self-ownership. Each individual has the right to control his or her own body, action, speech and property. Government's only role is to help individuals defend themselves from force and fraud.

Tolerant

The Libertarian Party is for all who don't want to push other people around and don't want to be pushed around themselves. Live and let live is the Libertarian way.

America's third largest political party

Libertarians are practical; we know we can't make the world perfect. But, it can be better. Libertarians will keep working to create a freer society for everyone. As William Allen White said, "Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others."

Why not stick with the Establishment?

The politicians in Washington and our state capital have led us away from the principles of individual liberty and personal responsibility, which are the only sound foundation for a just, humane and abundant society.

Government at all levels is too large, too expensive, woefully inefficient, arrogant, intrusive and downright dangerous. Democratic and Republican politicians have created the status quo and do not intend to change it.

Consider the Libertarian option

- Cut all taxes on productive labor.
- Substantially reduce the size and intrusiveness of government.
- Let peaceful, honest people offer their goods and services to willing consumers without a hassle from government.
- Let peaceful, honest people decide for themselves what to eat, drink, read or smoke and how to dress, medicate themselves or make love without fear of criminal penalties.
- The U.S. government should defend Americans and their property in America and let the U.S. taxpayer off the hook for the defense bill of wealthy countries like Germany and Japan.

What Americans want

Americans want, and deserve, a political system that respects them as individuals; as people who can make their own plans, who can take responsibility for themselves, who are compassionate, and who can and will solve their own problems if allowed to do so.

Most Americans, after some thought, prefer the Libertarian option in politics. Most people in their private, non-governmental, affairs deal with each other on the libertarian premise of mutual respect. You don't threaten your neighbors with fines or jail just because they choose careers or lifestyles different from yours.

Let's hold government to the same standard. Protect us and our rights, and give us the respect we deserve.

Time for action

For as long as most of us can remember, Republican and Democratic politicians have talked about solving the problems that face Americans: but their "solutions" have only worsened the situation — higher and higher taxes; greater intrusions into our personal lives; more rapes, murders and muggings; and a crumbling public school system graduating fewer and fewer people who can read.

Libertarian ideas were instrumental in the birth of our country, and they can inspire a return to the individual initiative, responsibility and prosperity that were once part of the American dream. If you agree, we hope you will join us.

Even if you haven't decided yet whether to vote Libertarian, but want YOUR party to adopt a more libertarian attitude, you should join us or send a contribution so that we can better promote the libertarian ideal of individual liberty with individual responsibility on all issues at all times.

Libertarians in public office



Art Olivier of Bellflower, California (2nd from right), shown here being sworn in as city council member, is one of some 250 Libertarians in elected and appointed office around the country, with nearly 100 in California. They serve in a variety of elected public positions: County Supervisor, County District Attorney, mayor, city council member, school, water and other municipal boards. Others are in appointed positions on boards and local commissions.

Respect for property rights necessary for freedom

Owning property is the most basic of all our rights. In a society which has the proper focus, many of the problems we face today become non-issues. Over the last half-century, there has been a declared war on the most fundamental of rights: property rights.

Our respect for private property goes to the root of our other freedoms: Freedom of speech, of religion, to own weapons, to gather peaceably. Freedom only exists where there is complete respect for rights of property ownership. When we go to another person's land, or home, or business, we should expect to be bound by their rules of conduct. And they should be free to protect their property and family as they see fit.

Increasingly, though, the government is usurping our property rights, in one fashion or another. It is fair to say that we are in a sense losing true property ownership. In many cases, the government prevents us from doing with our property what we would like, essentially making the land worthless. Yet government still manages to tax us at rates which rival rent for the pleasure of being forbidden from using the land. Some of the laws are ostensibly "environmental" in nature, others reflect a desire for "fairness," while still others make claims of simply being "good for everyone." These laws may be good for the big-government bureaucrats; they are bad for almost everyone else. In fact, these laws amount to regulatory "takings," prohibited by our Constitution's Fifth Amendment.

Our freedoms and liberties are only as secure as our property rights. This was the underlying assumption of our Founding Fathers, and a foundation we are in danger of cracking. Without a firm respect for property ownership, all our other rights are only so much talk.

Excerpted from Rep. Ron Paul's on-line newsletter, *Freedom Watch*, July 8, 1998.

Ask Dr. Ruwart

Environment and rights

Question:

Will any libertarians concede that the natural environment — resources themselves, animals that live off them — have natural rights, in the same way that humans assign natural rights to themselves?

Mary Ruwart's short answer:

The libertarian philosophy addresses relationships between human beings, not humans and other species. Many people are looking for a coherent way to address this issue, so please give some thought to developing one.

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let people know you
are a Libertarian**



Lady Liberty Logo Flag —

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**The Libertarian Credo -
Live and Let Live:**
porcupine design with white letters and artwork on black shirt.



**Lady Liberty Logo
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Ask Dr. Ruwart

Pollution

Question:

Since the earth is something which is passed down to future generations, isn't any destruction of the earth a direct threat to the existence— and thus, of course, the rights — of future human beings?

Mary Ruwart's short answer:

The best way to protect the earth is to honor property rights of individuals. People care for things they own and can sell later, but are not so careful about things they rent. If you go out West and compare grazing land owned by individuals with that administered by government, the benefit of individual ownership becomes apparent.

When I was a member of the Kalamazoo Rain Forest Action Committee, environmentalists recognized that helping the native people defend their property rights was the best protection the rain forests could have. The government is the biggest polluter and despoiler of our lands, yet we've been fooled into letting this fox guard our hen house.

If you are opposed to contraception, don't use it.
 If you are opposed to abortion, don't have one.
 However, please, do not try to force your beliefs on everyone else.

— Sheila Lodge, Vice President,
 Planned Parenthood of Santa Barbara,
 Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties, 1999.

The prohibition lesson

What do prohibition, gun control, the War on Drugs, and the persecution of tobacco have in common?

They have spawned organized crime, created new cottage industries of smuggling and black markets, caused bloody, violent turf wars, and corrupted the criminal justice system. But they did not, have not, accomplished what they set out to do.

Prohibition didn't stop the use of liquor. Fortunately, the people got angry and caused the repeal of a stupid law.

The drug laws aren't stopping drug use; they create victimless crimes, increase the cost and the danger of impurities to the user, and increase street violence as gangs fight for turf.

Making gun ownership illegal will stop neither gun possession nor the use of guns by criminals.

The crackdown on tobacco is not stopping people from smoking; it enriches government bureaucracies and trial attorneys, while it harms hardworking farmers and businesses.

The primary victim of these restrictive efforts is the honest citizen — you and me — whose civil rights are trampled as misguided legislators and police tighten the screws.

Libertarians believe that people have the right to do what they want with their life so long as they do not harm anyone else and take responsibility for themselves and their actions.



Taxes are not levied for the benefit of the taxed.

— Robert A. Heinlein

**Campaign spoof
is prize-winner**



A parody of the popular animated cartoon strip, "South Park," that appears on the Comedy Channel won the prestigious 1999 Pollie award for best political commercial over 30 seconds.

It was prepared for Libertarian Steve Kubby's 1998 campaign for California Governor by several of his committee members who are also professional television producers. The ad was aired on cable TV several times, and generated many good comments by talk and news media.

The creative team is in the process of producing a mockery of the "This is your brain . . . this is heroin" ads sponsored by the Partnership for a Drug Free America.

"This commercial does not mock just the drug war, but the whole system," says Doug Scribner, the director and animator of the Kubby ad. He went on to say that they are seeking financing for the project. He can be reached by e-mail at dougscibner@worldnet.att.net, or by calling 949-515-8101.

Enlightenment — from p. 1

felt it was so corrupt and unfair. I abhorred the idea that we, the youth, are supposed to be the future, yet we have so many restrictions placed on us that this concept is impossible. It wasn't until I heard many members of different political parties speak that I discovered there was a party out there who supported teenage views. From this point on I became very interested in the Libertarian Party because, unlike the other parties, they offered freedom, liberty, equality, and individual choices. I, as the Libertarian Party, believe that freedom is indivisible and as long as we do not interfere with others' freedom, we should be allowed to do what we want with our own bodies, regardless of age. All of my political and moral beliefs were incorporated in the Libertarian Party, so I joined their world.

After experiencing much Libertarian activity, I have become so passionate about transforming the world into a truly free society. I believe that as the youth of today I can bring about a tolerant society, which will return to us our liberty. The government should no longer act as our parents, but they should serve and protect us. They should not protect us from ourselves. As a teenager myself, I know we need to practice our unique beliefs that could improve our world; we just need to get the government to give us a chance. We need to start voicing our opinions, so we can crush the restrictions that are placed on us. If we have a little perseverance to compete with these government standards we can apply our visions and impact the world greatly!

Ms. Tsujioka attends Rosary High School in Fullerton, CA., and is an activist with Orange County LP Region's Liberty Youth Council.

Are you a Libertarian? Take this test to find out:

1 For each question, check off your best answer. "Gov't decides" means "There ought to be a law."

Personal Freedoms

Whose decision should it be whether or not you:	My Decision	Not Sure	Gov't Decides
Wear a seatbelt or helmet?			
Buy adult books or videos?			
Own a gun?			
Smoke marijuana?			
Pay for sex?			
Send your children to school?			
Allow smoking in your bar?			
Have an abortion?			
Become a soldier?			
Play cards for money?			

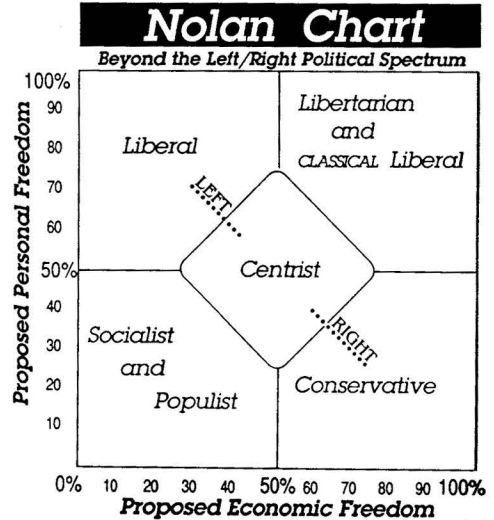
Count checkmarks: _____
 Multiply by: x10 x5 x0
 Add multiplied totals for your
PERSONAL FREEDOM SCORE: _____ + _____ + _____ = _____

Economic Freedoms

Whose decision should it be whether or not you:	My Decision	Not Sure	Gov't Decides
Pay taxes?			
Work for less than min. wage?			
Contribute to Social Security?			
Insure your car?			
Hire a minority worker?			
Compete with the post office?			
Hire an unlicensed contractor?			
Help the needy?			
Invest in something risky?			
Contribute to a foreign country?			

Count checkmarks: _____
 Multiply by: x10 x5 x0
 Add multiplied totals for your
ECONOMIC FREEDOM SCORE: _____ + _____ + _____ = _____

2 To find your home on the political map, mark your scores on the PERSONAL FREEDOM scale and the ECONOMIC FREEDOM scale. From your marked scores, draw lines to where they meet.



3 If you had high freedom scores, you found yourself in the Libertarian region of the map. You have more in common with the Libertarian Party than with the Democratic or Republican parties.

<p>Now that you know your political home, isn't it time for you to register Libertarian? America needs the Libertarian Party; it needs you to take a stand.</p> <p>Register and vote Libertarian.</p>	<p>For more information, call 1-800-ELECT-US or visit our web site at http://www.lp.org.</p>
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DEA Head:

Smoking to be outlawed

One of the most amazing moments on John Stossel's recent ABC special report, "Sex, Drugs and Consenting Adults," came during Stossel's interview with Drug Enforcement Administration head Tom Constantine. One wonders why this wasn't front-page news the day after it aired:

John Stossel: Should we outlaw smoking?

Tom Constantine: When we look down the road, I would say 10, 15, 20 years from now, in a gradual fashion, smoking will probably be outlawed in the United States.

(Source: ABC / Media Awareness Project)

Merely following good business practice

News item - Congressman says that tobacco companies are evading the restrictions placed on them in America by advertising more and more to smokers in other countries.



Ava Harper (right), spokesperson for Philip Morris, accepts Southland Keg Club's 1995 Golden Spigot award from Richard E. Venable (left). Allan Segalla of Twain Harte looks on in background. The award is given to organizations that follow Libertarian principles of freedom of choice.

It's about freedom of choice

Libertarians believe in freedom of choice – freedom to buy or sell products, freedom to live their life as they see fit, freedom of association, freedom to travel – in personal life and in business.

Libertarians also realize that with that freedom of choice comes responsibility for one's actions and letting others pursue their own course of action without the use of force.