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- Free people are more productive.
- Taxes should be substantially and systematically reduced.
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Time for

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Local Politics

by Winston Holmes

The silly season is upon us again. Elections for Mayor and Fresno City Council will be held on March 5. This will enable the voters of our beloved City of Fresno to once again attempt to shuffle the deck chairs on the Titanic. If we are lucky, we may be able to move up from #277 to a more respectable #193 in the glorious ratings of U.S. cities.

The three prime contenders for Mayor are: (1) former City Councilmember, Dale Doig, who has just been elected as Mayor to fill out the vacancy created by Dan Whitehurst's fast escape to the halls of academia; (2) Frank Rincon, a City of Fresno employee; and (3) Dan Spears, an investment advisor. *The Fresno Bee* has recently endorsed Dan Spears as the most promising of this group. Doig's past peccadillos apparently were

too much for the *Bee* even though it seems a foregone conclusion that Dale, with lots of money and endorsements from special interest groups, will be elected as the next Mayor of Fresno. Occasionally, even *The Fresno Bee* is willing to do a suicide act for principle over expediency in the face of overwhelming odds.

Council District Two

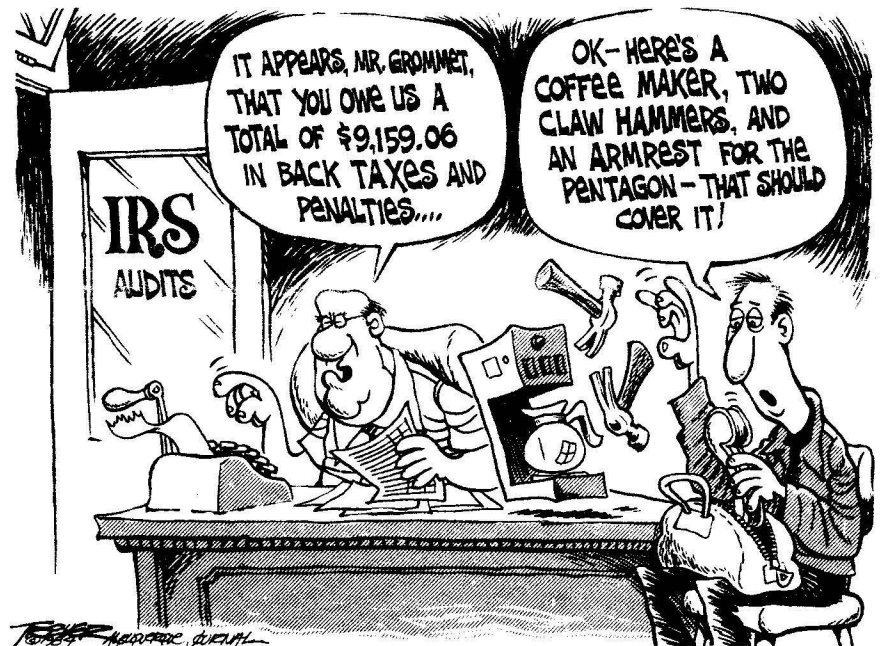
The seat being vacated by Doig in District #2 is being contested by Tony Souza, Tom MacMichael, Tom Marsella and Joni Johnson. The leading contenders are Souza and MacMichael. Souza has good grass-roots organizational support and MacMichael has a bank full of money. This will turn out to be a rather classic case of the organizational campaign against the media "image" campaign.

MacMichael seems to be the annointed candidate of the large developers since he served on the City Planning Commission for several years and piled up chits for several key votes on zoning. In any event, his contribution list reads like a "Who's Who" of the development community. MacMichael should spend at least \$40,000 in the campaign, double that of Souza.

One of the many areas of disagreement between Souza and MacMichael is over Far West Airlines. MacMichael supports the city involvement in Far West. Souza takes the position that it is the job of the city to provide a good climate for private investment—not to become the business owner.

Tom Marsella's main campaign thrust has to do with "unchaining" the school grounds so that kids can use the

(See Politics page 2)



REASON

Kidnapping Truants

Court Ends Open Season on Kids

by Martha Gustafson

A December decision by a Santa Ana appeals court has effectively ended the joint "street sweeping" effort of the Fresno Police Department and Fresno Unified School District known as Operation Stay In School. For several years the police department, in cooperation with the school district, had used a misinterpretation of the California Education Code as an excuse to accost and take into custody any person who appeared to be under the age of eighteen and who was on the streets of Fresno during FUSD school hours, for "suspected truancy." The *Fresno Bee* report of the court ruling and subsequent suspension of OSIS states that California Education Code authorizes attendance supervisors or peace officers to "arrest or assume temporary custody of a minor suspected of being truant." The actual

language of the code in question authorizes attendance supervisors or peace officers to take into custody minors "found away from home and absent from school without valid excuse." The court has ruled that language to mean only actual truants may be taken into custody, not merely any youngster an officer might suspect is truant.

Program in Practice

The OSIS program in practice, was not the "extremely successful" anti-truancy program it has been called by various FUSD and FPD officials. The drop-out rate in FUSD schools actually increased after OSIS began, and nearly every California high school drop-out under the age of 18 is

(See Truants back page)

Fresno Quizz

1. City Councilman Chris Petersen has suggested that the City of Fresno should purchase, by condemnation if necessary, two Sav-on grocery stores that have recently closed. He plans to finance the purchase with:

- a. A tax increase.
- b. A grocery store assessment district.
- c. The city's profits from Far West Airlines.

2. Business executives considering relocating to Fresno would, after studying the City Council's recent activities, most likely:

- a. Approach the Council for a subsidy.
- b. Hire the city staff as business consultants.
- c. Relocate their business in Bakersfield.

Local Politics

(Continued from page 1)

facilities after school and on weekends. A worthy goal, but someone should tell Marsella that the Fresno City Council has absolutely no say in this matter. It is controlled solely by the Fresno Unified School District Board.

Joni Johnson has good potential as a future candidate but is hampered in this election by no organization and no money. She has gained friends and supporters where she has had the opportunity to be heard. She takes a strong environmentalist approach to land use issues.

Council District Four

District #4 pits incumbent Karen Humphrey against challenger Connye Kubo. Humphrey represents the oldline liberal/socialist approach to government while Kubo is oriented to free market solutions. After having failed to stop the new lease with the Air National Guard, Humphrey is now

trying to shut down Picadilly Inn/University at Cedar and Shaw Avenues. This, of course, fits right in with her vote to stop expansion of St. Agnes Hospital. A rather clear choice in this race—take your pick.

Council District Six

District #6 is up for grabs. This is the seat being vacated by Joe Williams who chose not to re-run. The main contenders are Rod Anaforian and Larry Powell followed by Bob Myers and Jay Steinman. Anaforian seems to have a professional, well financed campaign and Larry Powell has put together a good organizational effort. Steinman ran against Williams four years ago and should have some name identification. Myers is a coach at Roosevelt High School and has some community support. Should be a run-off situation to be decided in May.

As the cartoon rabbit used to say: "That's all, folks!" It is now up to the voters to decide.

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CITIZENS' VIEW Editor
P.O. Box 5039
Fresno, CA 93755

Dear Editor:

We received the December edition of your newspaper *Liberty* published by the Libertarian party of Fresno County. We are most appreciative of the several illuminating articles therein on the Grace Commission and Citizens Against Waste (CAW). They constitute an informative, professional presentation. Enclosed are two recent articles by J. Peter Grace, which may be of use to you.

Sincerely,

J. P. Bolduc

President, Citizens Against Waste Foundation

The articles mentioned in Mr. Bolduc's letter will be published in upcoming editions, space permitting.--Ed.

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Teen Suicides Explained

Clinical psychologist Pamela Cantor, president-elect of the American Association of Suicidology, has offered the following explanation for a 136% increase in the rate of teen suicides between 1960 and 1980. "The rise in teen-age suicide primarily is in the West. That may be because the Western states are expanding; there is isolation. In the West, there is too much space, and there are not enough people."

Cantor has suggested mandatory mental health classes for teens to solve the problem. (An alternative theory is that teens are driven to suicide by swarms of muddle-minded "experts" who insist on invading and managing their lives.)

Geologists have reported no significant "expansion" of the Western states since 1960 that would account for Ms. Cantor's perceived isolation among residents. Census bureau statistics indicate that since 1960, the Western states have enjoyed substantially more people and less space in which to fit them. It has been suggested that the current "experts" on the subject of suicide are more in need of mandatory mental health classes than teenagers, and that requiring sanity certifications of clinical psychologists might be the key to reducing the teen suicide rate.

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- Feb. 27**
7:00 pm
Wed.
General Membership Meeting
Election of officers
- Mar. 21**
7-8:30 pm
Thurs.
Introduction to Libertarianism
All your questions answered—free
- Mar. 27**
7:00 pm
Wed.
Executive Committee
Business meeting, all members
welcome
- Mar. 29**
7-9 pm
Fri.
Film Series \$3
Snacks, & refreshments (also popcorn)
Libertarian topics cinematically
portrayed
- Apr. 10**
7/8 pm
Wed.
Program Meeting
Carnation Restaurant
1089 E. Shaw
- Apr. 24**
7:00 pm
Wed.
Business meeting
All members welcome
Committees meet
- Apr. 26**
7:00
Fri.
Film Series \$3, public invited
Libertarians at the movies
Snacks, popcorn, & refreshments
- May 16**
7-8:30 pm
Thurs.
Introduction to Libertarianism
for the curious—only requirement
- May 29**
7:00 pm
Wed.
Business Meeting
Planning for June social
- May 31**
7-9 pm
Fri.
Film Series \$3 Refreshments
Big picture graphically displayed
Public invited
- June 12**
7/8
Wed.
Program meeting
location and topic to be announced,
but it'll be good.
- June 22**
5 pm on
Sat.
Pot Luck by the Pool
call for arrangements
298-2573 eves.
- June 26**
7:00
Wed.
Business Meeting
July 4th Activities

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THE PUBLIC CALL 297-1776 for
specific details. (299-0509 eves.)

(Truants continued from page 1)

legally truant. Neither agency has produced any documented evidence that OSIS increased school attendance in FUSD schools or cut the rate of daytime burglaries in Fresno, although they made both claims. Hundreds of students, instead of being encouraged to go to school by OSIS, were actually kept out of school by the program, since they were taken into custody on their way to school, and never got where they intended to go.

A section of the California Education Code immediately following the section FUSD and FPD used to justify the OSIS program requires that any person assuming custody of a truant minor must "forthwith deliver" that minor to either his parents or his assigned school. Neither FUSD nor FPD complied with that section, which was intended to protect the youngsters taken into custody. FPD officers delivered the youngsters to FUSD "centers" where they were held until a parent could be found to provide transportation. If no parent was

contacted, the children were merely ushered out the door of the centers and left, often miles from their homes or schools. Thus, children taken into custody by police officers were often left wandering around the city, with no responsible adult knowing where they were or why they were where they were. That this situation endangered the youngsters who got caught up in OSIS was ignored by both FPD and FUSD officials.

Difficult to Swallow

It is a bit difficult to swallow FPD's contention that OSIS cut the number of daytime burglaries by 25% to 60%. The program normally operated only between the hours of 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. FPD acknowledges that most daytime burglaries take place in the afternoon. If one assumes that OSIS actually did cut the burglary rate by keeping the burglars in school, one must then question the wisdom of using FUSD schools as a holding tank for individuals who have no qualms about thievery, and the effects on education of having such individuals roaming campuses and sharing

classrooms with serious students.

Finally, the OSIS program was questionable on serious constitutional grounds, for it created a suspect classification of individuals (persons who appeared to be under the age of 18) who police were instructed to assume were guilty of wrongdoing until and unless they could be proved innocent. The basic assumption was that any kid not in an FUSD school during FUSD school hours was a criminal, and to be treated as such. OSIS was nothing more or less than an excuse for FPD to declare "open season" on kids.

Sickening Example

In the last analysis, Operation Stay in School was a sickening example of two public agencies cooperating (or conspiring) to dump their responsibilities on one another. The police department used public schools as crime prevention and detention centers, while the school district used the police department and children's fear of being taken into custody to try to keep students in its schools. FUSD administrator William Booth, bemoaning the end of OSIS, says the court decision which resulted in the suspension of the program "makes our lives more complicated." He has acknowledged that providing schools in which students want to stay is a bigger "complication" than FUSD administrators feel willing or able to deal with.

The final irony in the case of "Operation Stay In School" came from Dr. Booth, who informed the public that FUSD "attendance officers" would now be picking up youngsters suspected of being truant. That statement is utterly false, and to any parent or child who believes it, extremely dangerous. FUSD has left the impression that people calling themselves truant officers will be wandering about the city with a legitimate reason to pick up children. We can only hope that the Play It Safe organization has been so successful in educating the children of our community about their personal safety that any FUSD employee who tried to "pick up" any child in Fresno would be immediately set upon by outraged citizens who would confine him in a now redundant OSIS "reception center."

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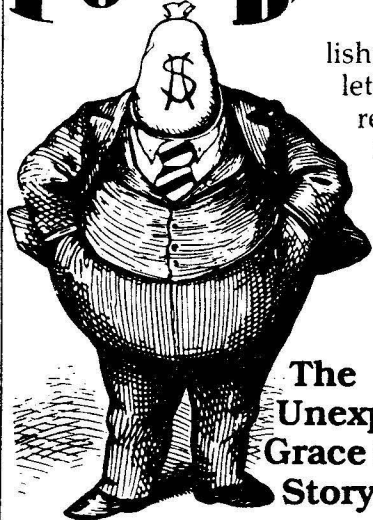
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