



The Utah Liberator

The Monthly Voice of the Libertarian Party of Utah for the Enlightenment of Our Members & Friends

Vol. 3, No. 3

Nov/Dec 1997

Sign Up Now To Be a Libertarian Minute Man!

You can make a difference. So, won't you please help us beat the Eagle Forum at their own game? For years, the intractable, blue-nosed, busybody Forum has held the Utah state legislature hostage with a barrage of phone calls supporting one restriction on personal liberty after another. We have no reason to believe this year will be different.

Secret of Success

The Forum's method for intimidating the state's elected representatives into voting their way is no secret. Any time they like or oppose any legislation, they pick up the phone and call their legislator. It's that simple.

No legislator takes one phone call too seriously (unless it's from a major contributor, of course). But given the public's apathy towards most proposed bills (e.g., the official state crockpot), as few as five calls for (or against) a particular bill from his/her con-

stituents will definitely sway a rep's vote.

If you and your liberty-minded friends were to call your state representative or state senator every time a bad bill was introduced, you'd help defeat the dark forces of evil who seek to impose their brand of uptight, repressive, Agency-denying morality on all Utahns.

What Bills?

While we haven't yet examined every bill proposed for the '98 legislative session, we know that many bills are totally unacceptable. With tax surpluses running at an all-time high, we can expect more taxes. We know there will be attempts to further limit your right to an armed self-defense anywhere except airports and courthouses.

We know Governor Perfectchair wants the force of law to deny all state employees the right to protect themselves from their road-outraged fellow citizens. We've

already seen school districts disarm their employees so they can be of no help when a kid runs amok with his daddy's handgun. State human resources director Ms. Suzuki-Okabe has likened any state employee's concealed firearm to "secondhand smoke"! (Must be the result of government schooling.)

You Can Help

You don't have to follow the legislation or read every bill. All you have to do is volunteer to be a Libertarian Minute Man (or Woman). We will act as your sentries, watching the bills and getting the legislators' reactions.

Then, when we feel action is required, we will contact you by phone or mail or email, give you the facts and let you take it from there by just making a call.

But to be effective, we have to know a bit more about you. Specifically, where you vote and your various legislative districts (you have several).

Mass Meetings, Too

To be seen as a serious political party we must hold "mass meetings" or "caucuses." These are usually held in a private home and last under an hour. The goal of the meeting is to elect delegates to the Party's state and county conventions.

Two years ago we turned away dozens of interested people because the Party acted like a closed shop. But we have nothing to hide. Indeed we welcome public inquiry.

If you volunteer to host a mass meeting, you can expect a few curiosity-seekers to show up. You can turn that into an opportunity to inform and recruit new members.

Sign Up Now!

This is your chance to help the LPUtah become a major factor in Utah politics and elections. Just fill out the form below (and the one of page four) and get involved for a change.

Yes, I know freedom depends on me. I want to be an Libertarian Minute Man (or Woman). Here's the information you need to help me oppose bad legislation, higher taxes and mutant government growth.

My Name: _____ Phone: (_____) _____

My Home Address: _____ Town: _____ County: _____

My E-mail Address: _____ Fax: (_____) _____

My voting districts are: Check your Voter Information Card or fill in the appropriate name(s) of the current incumbent(s).

Congressional: _____ Senate: _____ Representative: _____

State School District: _____ Local School District: _____

☐ I'm also interested in hosting a mass meeting. I understand this interest does not obligate me in any way and that I will not have to make a final decision until some time in 1998.

Mail to: LPUtah Minute Man, P.O. Box 526025, Salt Lake City, Utah 84152-6025

Understanding Utah Election Law

by Scooter, The Wonder Dog

We asked our prolific pooch, a legal beagle, to paw through Utah's election code to help untangle some of the more arcane aspects of the laws that impact our electoral efforts.

Ever eager to earn yet another pat on the head or, better, a doggie biscuit, Scooter soon returned wagging his tail. We were so pleased with the results, we gave him a new flea collar.

Mass Meetings

In response to inquiries about whether Utah law requires political parties to hold pre-convention mass meetings (a/k/a "caucuses"), or hold them on a certain day, my review of Utah election code indicates that the law is silent on the issue. Therefore, there is no requirement under Utah law for political parties to hold mass meetings.

However, the date by which a political party must submit the names of its nominees to county or state election officials does set a time by which those nominations must occur.

Similarly, there is no requirement under Utah law requiring political parties to hold their conventions before a certain date, except that—as stated above—Utah law does set date by which parties must inform county and state election officials of nominees it wishes to place on the ballot.

Primaries

Regarding primary elections, U.C.A. Sec. 20A-9-402, parties choosing to use the primary process should submit the names of its statewide or multicounty candidates to the lieutenant governor's office by 5 p.m. on May 14 of an election year.

Similarly, parties choosing to use the primary process should submit the names of its county

candidates by 5 p.m. on May 14 of an election year. (The state code actually has the process backwards, but May 14th is the most reasonable interpretation reconciling the conflicting provisions.) Primary elections are held on the fourth Tuesday in June of an election year.

Parties not wishing to avail themselves of the primary process do not need to submit the names of its nominees to either county or state election officials (depending on the office sought) until 5 p.m. on August 15 of an election year.

Therefore, a political party which does not choose to participate in the primary process but wishes to nominate candidates may hold its convention on any date on or before August 15, providing the names of the nominees were submitted before the deadline to the appropriate election officials.

Concomitantly, a political party which chooses to participate in the primary process and nominate candidates may hold its convention on any date on or before May 14, again, keeping in mind that names of nominees must be submitted to appropriate election officials before the deadline.

Filing for Office

U.C.A. Sec. 20A-9-202 provides that persons seeking to become candidates must file a declaration of candidacy between March 7 and March 17 of the year when a general election will be held.

The place of filing depends on the office: those seeking county offices or legislative offices contained within a county should file with the county clerk. Those seeking multicounty offices, statewide or federal offices should file with the lieutenant governor's office.

LPUtah Call for PropRep Makes News

On November 4, the LPUtah along with other "third parties," held a press conference at the state capitol to urge Utah's demopublican lawmakers to reform the current winner-take-all electoral system by adopting some form of proportional representation.

The result was a front-page article in the *Daily Chronicle* and a very thoughtful piece in the *Salt Lake Tribune* by ace reporter Judy Fahys.

Dexter's Opening

Following is state chair Jim Dexter's opening comment:

First, on behalf of the LPUtah, let me thank members from Utah's other disadvantaged political parties for joining us in calling for electoral reform.

Although our parties may disagree on certain issues, we all agree that even though Republican and Democratic officeholders let us exist as political parties, they do not let us compete on a level playing field.

Utah's government is controlled by a political duopoly which uses the election process to protect itself from competition.

We say to Republican and Democratic officeholders in Utah: Break up the monopoly and start competing fairly.

At election time Republicans and Democrats call us "spoilers" and "ticket-splitters," even though Republicans and Democrats are responsible for making the rules under which the citizens of Utah choose their representatives.

Libertarians want an election system that allows voters to choose the candidates they agree with, instead of one that encourages them to vote for the lesser of two evils.

Libertarians want a government that truly represents Utah's political diversity. Why is Utah

government divided into two parties when the people of Utah are not?

We call on voters to contact their legislators and demand the passage of legislation to reform Utah's election process.

We call on the Governor and Utah legislators to listen to the citizens of Utah who see that our voting methods are rigged, and to come up with a responsible and just replacement.

We call on the media to inform the voters of Utah about the increasing adoption of alternative voting systems by countries worldwide.

Recent reforms in Ireland, Mexico, and the Ukraine show that the United States is quickly becoming a museum of democracy rather than a laboratory.

Finally, we ask the media, educators, and the members of Utah's political duopoly to stop excluding us from political debates and discussions.

Our democracy has become stagnant because we have allowed a two-party monopoly to stifle the free marketplace of ideas.

The Utah Liberator

Published 10 or so times a year by the Libertarian Party of Utah.

Editor & Designer

Jim Dexter

All submissions are welcome. Send neatly typewritten hard copy and/or disk in ASCII [text], Word, or Word Perfect) no later than the fifth of the month to:

The Utah Liberator
P.O. Box 526025
Salt Lake City, Utah
841 52-6025
801/534-8872
1-800-280-7900

Or, if you're on-line, submit them electronically to:

jjmdex@inconnect.com

Submissions may be subject to editing for fit, but will otherwise be printed as submitted ... if we have room in the issue.

Campaigning Tips from Success '97

by Scooter, The Wonder Dog

The campaigning workshops at Success '97 in Denver began with a joint session with attendees of the party-building workshops. National chair Steve Dasbach and national director Ron Crickenberger outlined the LP's plan of "relentless incrementalism" toward a goal of growing the party to a size where it outnumbered our opponents.

Planning would become a key theme throughout the workshops, such as developing a campaign plan and raising money by following a plan.

Veterans Speak

Fresh off a successful race for a Libertarian seeking a Michigan city council seat, Barbara Goushaw shared war stories and battle plans from past campaigns.

Lawyers know that a major part of the legal profession is knowing the right form to use; Goushaw provided Libertarian candidates and campaign managers with the right forms and methods. *The LPUtah has those forms and other information for members—all for the cost of copying them.*

Speakers outlined three types of campaigns: Ballot access, Party-building and Winning. Winning campaigns are won with organization, not ideas (ideas are the "for" of a campaign, not the how).

Money Talks

Money has a bearing on the results of a campaign. This author believes money doesn't decide who wins or loses, but recognizes that a minimal amount of money is needed to get the candidate's message out.

Speakers compared the '96 Jon Coon campaign in Michigan and the '97 Murray Sabrin campaign in New Jersey. Both campaigns yielded nearly the same percentage of votes, but the Coon campaign grew the membership in

the Michigan LP while the LP of NJ wound up with fewer members. The difference: Getting more people involved.

According to those who've been there, it costs \$5 or one hour per vote to win an election.

A "wholesale" campaign (which has value) involves attending debates and answering surveys. A "retail" campaign requires all the elements of a wholesale campaign plus one-one-one contact, door-to-door precinct walking, and direct mail.

Goushaw and Crickenberger also discussed near-election and election day activities, such as absentee voter campaigns (where a lot of vote fraud may be found) and get-out-the-vote efforts.

Delivering the Message

LP communicators Bill Winter and Michael Cloud passed along tips on delivering the Libertarian message.

If you've ever studied public speaking, this material was old hat; but top performers take such refresher courses to retain a mastery of the basics.

The most important information, according to this pooch, was Cloud's presentation on fundraising.

In a time when reformers are calling for welfare for politicians in the form of public financing of campaigns, every Libertarian should take pride in a process that raises campaign funds through peaceful persuasion.

People will give money to those they know, like, and trust. Be such a person.

Fellow Libertarians have traveled some of these roads before. If you're new to campaigning or want to learn some new tricks, I'm sure sitting down with an experientially-educated LPUtah over a hot meal or beverage will be well worth it. (Woof!)

Year 2000 Crisis Looms Large Indeed

by Hugh Butler

All organizations, large and small, depend upon software and firmware which, to a great extent, were engineered by individuals who were careless about the upcoming millennium change.

I have asked Steve Dasbach to place into the LNC minutes my request for appointment of a Y2K (Year 2000) officer from the LNC and a staff contact person.

It should be our goal to write an impact statement by mid-1998 which will include a list of systems and vendors not Y2K ready and plans for repairing or replacing them by the end of 1998.

I have also asked to meet with Dan Gallagher and others who are concerned about the new MIS development to ask Y2K and other system-related questions.

Not a Joke

I have seen some traffic on the Internet from Libertarians hoping that the Y2K Menace will result in massively less government, for a time at least.

As owner of a company providing data processing services to credit unions, I have to say that the potential for disaster will not be so nicely isolated as to affect the IRS but not the Social Security Administration, the Penta-

gon, but not the banking system.

Responsible data processing community leaders are horrified at the potential human cost of Y2K. If a panic ensues, a "run" on banks will be reminiscent of the 1930s.

Like a Total Blackout

Being without computing power, after one has come to depend upon it, is like the New York City blackout—what personal habits do you change when you live on the 20th floor of a building with no lights, no elevator? What food do you buy and prepare without electricity for heat or refrigeration?

There is not enough money, there are not enough engineers, there is not enough time left for every computer-using, Y2K-lame business and government agency to make it through.

Even if the estimates of 10–20% lame are optimistic, that still spells a sizable calamity.

Libertarians should not be seen as celebrating computer history's darkest hour. Just a reminder: Let's not have too much fun with this.

Hugh Butler is national treasurer of the Libertarian Party and founder & CEO of Computer Consultants Corp. in Salt Lake City.

Come Meet With Us!

Ever wonder what Libertarians are like in person? Come to a meeting of your nearest county party and find out for yourself. These county organizations have regularly scheduled meetings every month. Contact the county chair to confirm the date and location.

Salt Lake County — Richard D. Barnes, 801/521-4400

The Salt Lake County party meets on the fourth Thursday at Slider's Pub & Grill, SE corner of 3500 South and Redwood Road starting at 7:00 PM.

Summit County — Christopher Kierst, 435/649-2451

The Summit County party meets at the Wasatch Pub on Main Street in Park City on the last Tuesday starting at 7:15.

Utah County — Glade Bradford, 801/798-0376

The Utah County party meets on the first Thursday at the coffee shop inside Barnes & Noble Bookstore at 130 West 1300 South in Orem starting at 7:00 p.m.

Washington County — Jim Lorenz, 435/652-9442; Email: brojim@tcd.net

University of Utah Campus Libertarians — Chris Winstead, 801/799-0414

Email: winstead@eng.utah.edu.



Notes From The Chair

by Jim Dexter

The Letter: We returned from Denver to a spate of e-mails protesting a letter written by a Party officer on LPUtah letterhead that took umbrage with the LDS Church's campaign against a "right-to-die" proposition on the Oregon ballot. The LPUtah has no official position on physician-assisted suicide, especially in another state. And we fully support The Church's (and anyone's) right to communicate its feelings on any matter. We also sincerely apologize for any ill-feelings generated by this misunderstanding.

Free Magazine: Some time in February, readers of this newsletter will receive a new publication sponsored by the Coalition for Accountable Government. The CAG is the avant garde in the fight against light rail. The new mag should give you lots of ammo to help stop this latest government folly. (See R/UDAT quote, pg. 5.)

Nov. Gunshow: Our thanks to CHRIS KIRST, DAN BROWN, DICK PARTRIDGE, DON & LORI JOHNSON and WILLIAM JONES for staffing our booth at the November gunshow.

Get A Clue: Saturday evening of the gunshow, I attended a meeting sponsored by the Utah Shooting Sports Council to discuss the next round of restrictions on concealed carry that will come before the legislature starting in January. I pointed out that every gun law in America sprang from the Republicans and Democrats, to which Rob Bishop, exec. dir. of the USSC and elephant state chair,

replied: "I doubt that very much." I'm still waiting to learn where he thinks gun laws came from. Mars?

Listen To Kay Henry: The lovely and talented Ms. Henry can be heard on KWUN-1230 AM weekdays from 10:00 AM to Noon. To help spread the word about the LPUtah, she has invited yours truly to be a guest every other Monday, starting at 11:00. Next appearance should be Jan. 12.

Charlie & Don Show: Speaking of KWUN, host Charlie Simons has taken a shine to DON JOHNSTON's silver tongue. Don held forth for three hours on a Sunday afternoon a couple of weeks back. Charlie has invited Don back on Dec. 28.

Scooter, The Wonder Dog: This issue marks the debut of the canine nom de plume. "Scooter" is a hard-working Libertarian who recently accepted an employment opportunity that requires him to keep his Party work on a low profile, hence the nom de paw.

Minute Persons Needed: If you skipped by the first page to get right to this, your favorite part of the newsletter, please go back, read the article and fill out the form. We need to start acting like people who actually want to make a difference.

Boycott Sara Lee: We are pleased to join with Janalee Tobias and Women Against Gun Control in calling for a boycott of this multinational food giant which recently gave Sarah Brady \$50,000 for her gun-grabbing efforts. And Wonderbras (made by a Sara Lee subsidiary) are a form of fraud ;)

Waco Flick: We have obtained copies of "Waco: The Rules of Engagement," a movie Janet Reno doesn't want you to see. If you'd like to borrow it to show to your friends, just call 1-800-280-7900.

Happy Holidays: That's the politically correct form of Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. It also covers Happy New Year. I hope you and yours have a great (and safe) time!

Make Your Resolution To Join the Party in '98

You are the only hope this state has of ever restoring the liberty and freedoms our Founding Fathers and the pioneers envisioned.

In Utah, liberty is under constant assault by "well-intentioned" forces who think solving society's problem means depriving you of your rights. Just watch how the legislature acts this session to raise taxes and further tighten the noose around freedom's neck.

The GOP's stranglehold on Utah government is seen as a prize to be captured by the moral fascists of the Utah Republican Assem-

bly (read "Eagle Forum") in an effort to impose their "correct moral principles" on everyone.

If you think the LPUtah is not big enough to make a difference, remember that's only because *you* haven't joined.

The solution to high taxes and growing government is not to avoid politics but for *you* to get involved for a change. Joining is a good start.

So, please resolve to do something in 1998 about this mess. We've made it easy by giving you an easy way to join right now. Just complete the form below and mail it. Why not today?



Libertarian
Party of Utah

JOIN TODAY (or Subscribe)

- ☐ **JOIN** — Yes, I want to be a Utah Libertarian. I understand my dues payment provides annual membership in both the Utah and national Libertarian parties; entitles me to the state party newsletter, *The Utah Libertarian*, invitation to all LPUtah social events and political functions, and full voting rights at state and county party meetings and conventions, plus I'll receive the national party's monthly newsletter and be eligible to participate in national conventions and activities. Please sign the Pledge, fill in your information, include payment (\$25 check payable to: Libertarian Party) and mail.
- ☐ **SUBSCRIBE** — No, I'm not yet ready to be a Utah Libertarian, but I would like to receive *The Utah Libertarian*. My check for \$15 for an annual subscription is enclosed.

The Libertarian Party Pledge

I hereby certify that I do not believe in nor advocate the initiation of force or fraud as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signed: X _____ Date _____

Please type or print neatly. Thank you.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ Fax: (____) _____

Work Phone: (____) _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation*: _____ Employer*: _____

*Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

Payment: ☐ Check (payable to: Libertarian Party) ☐ Cash/Money order
☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: X _____

Mail to: **Libertarian Party of Utah**
P.O. Box 526025
Salt Lake City, Utah 84152-6025

If Check Office Use Only
☐ Membership ☐ Treasurer
☐ Database ☐ LNC

The Libertarian Social Contract

by Gene Trosper

I believe in tolerance. That means that I will tolerate your lifestyle so long as it remains peaceful and non-coercive to others.

You can wear funny clothing, sport strange hairstyles, smoke whatever you wish, make love the way you want, worship in your own way . . . it's your life to lead as you choose.

Although I may not agree with some of your habits and choices, you still have the right to be YOU!

I believe in privacy. That means I won't be peeking over your fence, staring through your windows, sorting through your trash or asking neighbors about your private life.

I respect you as an autonomous individual capable of making your own decisions without the unsolicited "help" of myself or others (Of course, I'm always glad to help and offer advice if you ask though!).

You won't find me trying to pry into your privacy.

I do not covet what is yours. What you earn and own is yours, not mine. I do not want to expropriate your hard-earned dollars for the benefit of myself, my family, my neighbors or total strangers. You, your money and property are safe around me.

I will not steal and I will not ask the government to tax you for any reason. In fact, you will likely find me asking the government to give YOU (and everyone else) a break at tax time!

As a Libertarian, this is my contract with you! All I simply ask is that you allow me the equal freedom to live my life unfettered. Once we agree, the basis of a more peaceful and abundant society will have been established.

Libertarian Prime Directive

by Charles Curley

"Thou shalt not commit aggression."

Libertarianism is ultimately not an economic philosophy, although rigorous economics bears it out.

I would still be a Libertarian if Marxian economics were correct. Nor is libertarianism a political philosophy. That it coincides with the highest law of the land, the Bill of Rights, is nice. But I would be a libertarian even if the constitution forbade it. **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

Libertarianism is a moral philosophy. It has one ideal, one rule. If libertarianism had any truck with commandments, it would have this one: "Thou Shalt Not Commit Aggression." That would be its first commandment, its last commandment, and its only commandment. All else is an exercise for the student. **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

That one commandment, so simple yet so ineluctable, can be derived from so many sources. There are Christian libertarians, atheist libertarians, Buddhist libertarians, Crowleyite libertarians, Taoist libertarians, pagan libertarians. So it isn't an axiom, just a theorem. A commandment for people who do not suffer commandments. **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

Libertarianism does not arrive at drug legalization because the cost in constitutional rights is not worth the candle, however true that may be. Libertarianism arrives at drug legalization because the alternative, prohibi-

tion, is countless thousands of aggressions against the rights, the properties and the lives of millions of people. **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

Libertarianism does not exorcise all gun control because it contravenes a 200-year-old scrap of paper, however true that may be. Libertarianism does not oppose gun control because it concludes that a free people, trained to arms, are the best way to stop aggression, including governmental aggression, however true that may be. Libertarianism opposes gun control because gun control is enforced at gunpoint. **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

It is a universal commandment. It commands the rich, it commands the poor. It commands individuals, it commands groups. No exceptions. Even to that institution which is often defined as a monopoly on the use of force, government, libertarianism says, **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

In an instant in time, one image was graven on the hearts and souls of the world. One man, nameless, weaponless, standing against three tanks in a street all others had fled. In that instant, that man, whatever else he has done, whatever else he does in the future, stood forth as libertarianism in all its glory. That man with his arm upraised told those tank crews: **"Thou shalt not commit aggression."**

From the Internet; contributed by Ron Amos.

Heavy Thoughts on Light Rail

"Light rail will tend to increase transit ridership for homes and businesses in its immediate corridor. In the greater perspective, however, it will do little more than stabilize the otherwise further decline in transit ridership."

—From the R/UDAT Report for West Valley City, November 1997

Are Toll Roads Coming to Utah?

What does the Associated Press know that has apparently been hidden from the taxpayers of this state?

A small article at the top of page A13 of the December 6, *Salt Lake Tribune*, headlined "Freeways May Make Drivers Pay for Fast Lane," contained this telling paragraph: "He said there is great interest in the proposal throughout the West, where **toll lanes are planned** or under consideration in **Salt Lake City**, Phoenix, Portland, Ore., and Boulder, Colo." [Emphasis ours.]

It would appear that our benevolent gov't, in order to spare us years of additional agonizing over UDOT's constant bungling, won't reveal their plans for HOV (a/k/a "Diamond") lanes or tolls until I-15 is ready to be re-opened.

FedGov Plot?

Keeping the driving public ignorant of their plans is no doubt federal policy. For several years, New Jersey drivers put up with a widening project on the Garden State Parkway only to discover when the new lanes were finally open, they were reserved for carpoolers and buses!

But buses couldn't use the Parkway because a) commercial vehicles were prohibited and b) all the bridges were too low. So about 20 cars an hour qualified to use them. Talk about "road rage"!

Not The Libertarian Way

Actually, Libertarians love toll roads. A toll is a legitimate user fee for a service. But government-run tollroads often wind up being just another source of revenue for profligate politicians. No private road-builder would have approached the I-15 reconstruction with so little regard to the inconvenience of its customers. And no private enterprise would have let ten businesses on Redwood Road go under without paying a heavy price in court.

POINT:

Pro-Choice Is the Best Choice

by Don W. Johnston

I think all Libertarians can agree that legal abortion is a very sad thing. It's not right, it's terrible, it's horrible and totally unfair to the unborn. Yes, life is a precious gift and should be treated as such with respect and honor. And isn't this why freedom and rights are so important to us Libertarians? Of course it is!

Repeating Tragedy

Yet still, I can think of something that is just as horrible and just as terrible as legal abortion and ever so tragic and sad, that being illegal black-market abortion where young girls and women would be forced into America's back alleyways to face unsanitary conditions and butchers looking to make a quick buck, with both consensual parties being subject to criminal penalties if caught.

Certainly, anytime we prohibit "something" from society we make a bad thing worse by creating a black market for it and thus introduce all the evils of the black market into that "something" because of the criminal element involved. Government interference is never the answer to personal problems.

Even Worse

Even more horrible and more despicable than black market abortions and that is denying the self-ownership and reproductive rights of all females to have full domain over their bodies. How do you protect the alleged rights of the unborn without trampling all over the rights of the living?

If, it's her body then it's her say and she shouldn't be forced to share her body with anybody for any reason at any time, including a fetus. As a fetus is naturally dependent upon a woman's body for survival, its rights can only be secondary to that of a woman's and not primary.

Whose Rights?

Sure pro-life or right-to-life may sound good and feel good but

many pro-lifers or right-to-lifers support the death penalty and for this lack of consistency prove themselves to really be anti-choice and anti-life. Thus whenever, I hear the terms "pro-life" or "right-to-life" being applied to champion the rights of the unborn in the anti-abortion debate, I am struck with awe at this nonsequitur and must inquire, "Whose right to life are we referring to here?"

Certainly, no fetus can claim a right to life above and beyond that of the life carrying it. Sure, life may begin at the moment of conception but your rights to life don't begin until you are born and biologically independent. Why? Because individual rights and freedom have always been our natural birthrights. And being *birthrights*, the only logical starting point for life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness is birth.

Pro-Choice Is Moral

I know some Libertarians are upset with the National LP's pro-choice platform on abortion, feeling that the LP doesn't respect the moral values of all its members. But one of the problems with this argument is: Pro-choice is truly the best position because it respects the moral values of all its members, those who are for abortions as well as all those who are against.

Since freedom means having a choice, freedom requires that certain choices, rights, and liberties remain intact and not be subject to religious opinions, public polls, or legislative bodies. Without a doubt, abortion is one such liberty and the personal right of every living female on this planet to decide for themselves. Thus, I'd say the National LP Platform is "right on" in taking both sides of this tender issue, ensuring us that our political party would never enact legislation to prohibit abortion or force it upon us.

COUNTERPOINT:

Remove the Abortion Plank

by Charles Hardy

I believe all mention of abortion should be dropped from the National and LPUtah platforms.

Abortion is either nothing more than a medical procedure akin to having a mole removed in one extreme, something like murder in the other, or somewhere in between. I think Libertarians agree that nothing along this spectrum falls within the proper, delegated powers of the federal government. As such, abortion is either an area reserved to the powers of the States or to the people themselves. If abortion is not a federal issue, it has no place in the national platform.

Every plank of the LP platform should not only articulate the rational application of our most basic principle—Non-Initiation of Force—but should also be a unifying point with which there is near-unanimous agreement. Each plank should also help recruiting libertarian-minded individuals into the Party and, most importantly, electing Libertarians to office.

Abortion Fails

Any plank on abortion fails all of these criteria. There is no one rational outcome of NIOF when it comes to abortion as Libertarians come to differing conclusions depending on whether they regard the unborn as people against whom force may not be legitimately initiated.

Since abortion is such a "hot-button" issue for so many voters, any stated position on abortion can only hinder our efforts to recruit libertarian-minded people or to elect Libertarians to office.

While some have expressed concern that the rational conclusions of a pro-life position are impossible to defend politically, the rational conclusions of a pro-abortion-on-demand position are even more difficult to defend. They extend beyond late term or

"partial-birth" abortions. For example, the only difference between the couple who kills their newborn in a motel room and a doctor who performs a partial-birth abortion is a few seconds in timing, the tools used and a medical degree.

Indefensible

Since Libertarians might not require medical degrees to offer health services, it would become impossible to prosecute that couple for killing their baby. They were simply performing a partial-birth abortion and had a few complications. If you think defending moderate restrictions on abortions of convenience is tough, try defending infanticide.

Finally, my colleague's reasoning for denying the un-born rights is his conclusion of what may happen if they did have rights—the changes that might take place in society to recognize and safeguard those rights if they existed. He decides those changes are undesirable and therefore, such rights simply cannot exist.

Civil Rights

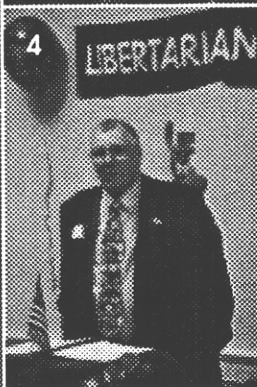
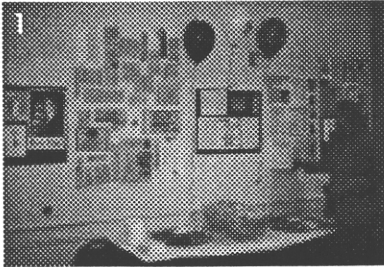
It appears to me to be much the same logic used by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1846 to declare Negroes (not just slaves, but all Negroes) were not citizens.

If they were citizens, "reasoned" the court, they would have enjoyed all the rights of citizens including the right to assemble, travel freely, own and carry guns, etc, and the exercise of those rights was undesirable to society. So they ruled negroes weren't and couldn't be citizens.

It is time to allow real freedom in the NLP and LPUtah and allow every member and every candidate of the party to come to their own conclusions regarding whether or not an unborn child is a person deserving of some minimal protection by removing all reference to abortion in both the National and Utah State platforms.

Scenes from the 25th B'day Party

The Party's party was a great success. We even made a small profit! Our thanks to all who participated, and to special events goddess Kaylin, Lee, Ju-El & Emyr-Al for setting up the room. 26th, anyone?



1. Lee fixes historical display
2. Beth Lawrence leads us in patriotic song.
3. Brent Richards and Dick Partridge share memories.
4. Jim Lorenz recalls his time as state chair.
5. Kaylin Robinson cuts the colorful cake.

Teen Drug Culture Factoids

Dealing with government schools must be especially difficult for today's teens (or is it just the thought of getting married at age 14?). Pay particular attention to the ages in these statistics compiled by Paul Engleman below:

Number of new prescriptions or doctor recommendations for Prozac to Americans aged 13-18 in 1995: 148,000. In 1996: 217,000.

Number of new Prozac prescriptions for 6- to 12-year-olds in 1995: 51,000. In 1996: 203,000.

Number of new prescriptions or recommendations for Zoloft for 13- to 18-year-olds in 1995: 155,000. In 1996: 199,000.

Number of new Zoloft prescriptions for children aged 6-12 in 1995: 33,000. In 1996: 46,000.

—Statistics contributed by Scooter the Wonder Dog

When Do You Get Rights?

by Ron Amos

Some libertarians take the position that rights are not objective existents, but are instead subjective opinions, thus no-one has any responsibility to pay any attention to them and that to depend upon some such myth as "natural rights" is to leave oneself open to tyranny.

I think it is this opinion that led to the anti-federalist, reaction to and, rejection of the Constitution of the United States. The consequence was the Bill of Rights, in the opinion of most non-natural-rightists the supreme law of the land, which should have been enacted as law by the first congress with criminal penalties for any politician who enacted a law contrary to the Bill of Rights, and for any bureaucrat who violated the Bill of Rights.

Second Amendment

For a non-natural-rightist libertarian, the issue of rights is not one of philosophy, either ethics or morality, but one of power. It is for this reason the Libertarian Party's Second Amendment Caucus insists that the Second Amendment is the most important one and should receive the most emphasis.

The right to bear arms as a legal concept rather than an ethical or moral one is aimed directly at the issue of power and how to protect the power of private citizens from the power of a run-amok government.

Childrens' Rights

In the abortion debate, even if a neonate should turn out to be conscious, it nevertheless lacks the power to enforce its survival should the mother decide to reject it.

But the rights of children have changed since the origin of the country. My grandfather left his parents' home when he was eight years-old and became emancipated with legal rights of his own. That was in the Oklahoma territory in 1884. He supported himself from then on until his death in 1960.

It was common enough in 19th century America for children to be making their own way that no-one gave it much thought. This was before Charles Dickens' novels prevailed in the American Culture and children became a privileged class.

In my own youth it was possible to become employed at an early age and I became self-supporting at age seven by selling magazines door to door. Most people thought nothing of it and most kids worked. Correspondingly, when a kid committed an adult crime he was frequently subjected to an adult penalty.

Yes, a kid could be shot for trespassing, and buckshot to the backside was an occasional consequence of stealing from a neighborhood orchard. There was much less juvenile delinquency in those days.

Libertarianism 101?

Chris Winstead and the UofU Campus Libertarians planned to introduce fellow students to Libertarian political philosophy and platform on Wednesday, October 29. They flooded the campus with flyers.

Unfortunately, a surprise visit by former Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres drew most students away from the event. We suspect a Mossad plot. ;-)

What is Libertarianism?

The University of Utah
Campus Libertarians
Present

Libertarianism 101
An Introduction to the Libertarian
Philosophy and Platform

On Wednesday, October 29
from 12:00 to 3:00
in Union 324

Learn about Libertarian positions on local and national political issues from
the State Executive Committee of the Utah Libertarian Party, including
State Party Chair Jim Dexter. Come in at any time. Your questions are
welcome!

Sponsored by the Campus Libertarians
234 Union Bldg.
Web page: www.uu-lib.org
Email: winstead@uutlib.org

Concealed-Carry Laws Reduce Crime Big-Time

If you want to reduce crime, allow more people to carry more concealed handguns. That opinion is confirmed by a new Cato Institute study, which found that violent crime rates dropped dramatically in the 24 states that have passed concealed-carry laws.

In those 24 states, concealed-carry laws require local police to grant most citizens a concealed weapon permit after meeting qualifications including fingerprints, criminal background check, and a gun safety course.

Gun Grabbers Are Wrong

For years, gun-control advocates claimed that laws allowing concealed weapons would lead to murder and mayhem, but the exact opposite is true: Concealed weapons actually save lives.

The Cato Institute study, timed to coincide with the 10-year an-

niversary of Florida's controversial concealed-carry law, found that in the 24 states with concealed-carry laws, murders dropped by 7.7%, rapes fell by 5.2%, robberies decreased by 2.2%, and aggravated assaults were reduced by 7%.

Where Guns Are Outlawed . . .

And in states where politicians continue to outlaw concealed weapons?

After accounting for all other factors, the study calculated that in 1992 alone, 1,414 more people were murdered than would have been if concealed-carry laws were in effect.

And the carnage doesn't end there: An additional 4,177 people were raped, 11,898 more were robbed, and 60,363 more assaulted solely as a result of the increased criminal activity that apparently comes with

concealed weapons bans, the study revealed.

Two Myths Shot Down

The study shoots holes in two other gun-control myths. One is that concealed-carry laws will resurrect the "Wild West."

The study found that the number of concealed-carry permit-holders convicted of murder committed in public is exactly zero, and less serious crimes are extremely rare. For example, only one in 5,000 Floridians have had their permits revoked for crimes involving a firearm.

In Utah the only known offender was David Breshnahan, then a state legislator.

The other myth: That accidental shootings will become commonplace.

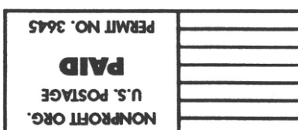
The number of accidental deaths increased so slightly (less than

half of 1%) that implementing concealed-carry laws in every remaining state would result in less than one additional death per year — far less than the number of lives saved because of the reduced murder rate.

Utah Gov't Ignores Facts

Despite this study and the previously released University of Chicago Study, Utah's government disarms its employees, the students on its camp, and teachers in public schools. Perhaps sentencing innocent people to death because they can't legally defend themselves or their co-workers or innocent students and keep their jobs.

When the legislature tries to fix the concealed-carry law that isn't broken, the LPUtah will provide them with the real facts, not the plaintive cries of the misguided, gun-hating socialists.



The Utah Liberator
 Libertarian Party of Utah
 P.O. Box 526025
 Salt Lake City, Utah
 84152-6025