



Golden Gate Libertarian

Libertarian Party of San Francisco January 2006

Visualize This...

by Marcy Berry, LPSF Vice-Chair

Visualize the Libertarian Party of San Francisco being a force to be dealt with. A force that transmutes dependence into independence, inculcation into personal responsibility. Just a dream you say. Well, look again. Let's take 2005.

Tie-died shirts dreamed up by Phil Berg and signs proclaiming "Freedom for All. No compromise. No excuses" did us proud at the 2005 Gay Pride Parade in June; we had a good sized contingent, which we will surpass in 2006.

Lunatic legislation? We take that on as well. Thanks to Starchild we became Charter Members of the San Francisco Taxpayers Union back in April, hoping to keep our Fair City from running all taxpayers out of town. The usual tax and spend pap on the November 8th voters' pamphlet met with some serious interference from opposition writers Starchild and Jawj Greenwald, who were backed by generous donations that supplemented the many qualifying signatures collected.

Not a good thing to turn away from those in pain. Michael Edelstein, Ph.D. (and more than familiar in his practice with those suffering) and I set up our Outreach Table at the ASA (Americans for Safe Access) rally in October; Starchild was one of the rally's featured speakers. The LPSF is committed to supporting those who find relief in medical marijuana; no compromise, no excuses.

Meanwhile, back at our e-mail discussion lists Phil Berg and Derek Jensen duked it out, over the Fed's funny money. Yep, fiscal responsibility; we will keep that up as well, since we all need to deal with the fiscal house of cards at all levels of government.

November 2006 elections? Hey, we will be ready, thanks to our new Initiatives Chair, Ron Getty.

Have you seen Ron's searing invectives of the status quo in the *Examiner* lately? Sign up with Ron's Initiative Work Group if you are serious about making a difference.

While you are at it, check out the LPSF's other Work Groups: Public Access TV's "The Libertarian Revolution" (talk to Phil Berg), A Libertarian Walking Tour (talk to Starchild), Golden Gate Libertarian (talk to Justin Sampson), LPSF Website and Blog (talk to Bryce Bigwood).

The Libertarian Party of San Francisco, a band of brothers and sisters dedicated to personal freedom and personal responsibility, wish you and yours a happy, healthy, and responsible Year 2006.

Pot Paradox

by Phil Berg

Attending the tail end of the pot club protest meeting tonight (December 30, 2005) reminded me how completely effortlessly the Republicans and Democrats have reversed sides over this issue, and that there is a lot of mileage to be had for Liberty including the liberty to smoke whatever we damn please into our own lungs.

Democrats are supposed to believe in democratic rule. Whatever the majority says is law. Also, the Democrats, since at least 1932, have believed that the Constitution and States Rights stand in the way of a Progressive Federal government. The Democrats since that time have stressed the importance of the commerce clause of the Constitution. The entire edifice of the New Deal, Social Security, Medicare, OSHA, EPA, FBI, ATF, DEA, are all built on the foundation of the Constitutional clause that allows congress to regulate interstate commerce... Everybody knows deep down that the coronation of the commerce clause is in violation of the meaning of the Constitution, and thus nearly everyone has been schooled in the idea that ways must be found to get around the original intent of the Constitution because times are different and what the Constitution says must be overridden by the necessity of changes in the modern world. Many young progressives are further educated to believe that the ideas embodied in the constitution are invalid because the color of the skin of the people who wrote it were white, and the gender of the writers was male, and some had slaves. Therefore, the truth of ideas is dependent on the color of skin of those who originated the ideas. Nevertheless, it is the commerce clause on which the entire leviathan is built.

Democrats know this... and that is why *no* upper level Democrats have the cojones to oppose the DEA and defend the pot clubs. The Democrats are doing what Democrats do. Obeying the popular will and defending the commerce clause. That is

New Meeting Location

Cybelle's Front Room
1385 9th Ave. @ Judah St.
San Francisco, CA 94122

Our regular location has been closed, so starting with our February meeting the Libertarian Party of San Francisco will be holding our monthly meetings at a new location.

The new location is Cybelle's Front Room, 1385 9th Ave. The restaurant is on the west side of the street, just north of the intersection of 9th and Judah, easily accessible from the N-Judah Muni line.

Our next meeting is Saturday, February 11, 2006, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. The final hour, from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., is a free pizza social hour as usual.

why there are no prominent Democrats defending the pot clubs. Nor is there any resolution on either the SF Democratic Party or the Harvey Milk Democratic Party website. What else can we conclude but that the Democrats in their hearts support the DEA raids. We Libertarians dare the Democrats to speak out in defense of individual liberty. We dare them to oppose the DEA raids, to introduce legislation to block them, and to recognize the rights of San Franciscans and Californians to regain sovereignty over their lungs, their persons, their cities, and their state. For Nancy Pelosi, Barbara Boxer, and Dianne Feinstein not to take a stand now against Federal tyranny is a clear statement on their part that they fundamentally support Federal tyranny in all its forms. If they fail to take a stand they must be replaced at the next election. Failure to take a stand here implies support for structure that allows this President and future Presidents to ignore the Constitution and give them the means to do it. Come on Barbara Boxer, you are the brave one. Let's hear from you. How about some speeches, how about you barring the door of a pot club to defend it against the DEA.

Now for the Republicans. The dissent in the pot club case was submitted by Republican appointees Thomas, O'Connor, and Rehnquist. They argued that clearly pot grown and consumed in California was not in Interstate commerce. Thomas eloquently pleaded that the abuse of the interstate commerce clause makes a farce of the Constitution's principles of government limited to the powers enumerated in the Constitution. Thus opposing the DEA and supporting our State's Sovereignty and the Constitution is the only principled action the Governor can take. His silence makes him a true Democrat who rules in contempt of Republican values such as respect for State's Rights and respect for Constitutional restraints on Federal power. Perhaps the Governor, just like the Terminator, has been captured and reprogrammed by the Democrats. Come on Arnie, fight the Force, regain your primary objective, stand up to Federal power. Stand in the door of a pot club and defend the rights of California. Every real Republican will applaud you, and you will in this single act send a steam pipe through the interstate commerce clause and end the paaahrty for the Democratic Party.

Pot Persecution

Medical marijuana champion Steve Kubby was recently extradited from Canada for prosecution in Placer County on drug possession charges. Kubby was the Libertarian candidate for Governor of California in 1998, after helping to write and pass Proposition 215, California's medical marijuana law approved by the voters in 1996.

Kubby arrived at San Francisco International Airport on January 26, 2006, and was escorted by police directly from the gate, bypassing the crowd of supporters and reporters awaiting his arrival. He now sits in jail in Placer County awaiting trial, deprived of the medicinal marijuana which he believes has helped him survive cancer for three decades.

Please see www.kubby.com for more details.

Feeling the Sting in Fremont

by Starchild, LPSF Outreach Director

Picture yourself working in your San Francisco home office one morning when you receive a phone call from a sincere-sounding young woman from Fremont. She found your ad on the web, and liked what you are offering, citing specific details about your ad. She requests that you make a service call to see her later that day in Fremont. After some difficulty in arranging transportation (you end up taking public transit), you arrive at her location. She has another young female friend with her who also wishes to pay for your assistance. A few minutes after you arrive, you are talking with them when six men burst into the room, arrest you, put you in handcuffs, and take you off to spend the night and all the next day in jail.

That's the short version of what happened to me on December 6. (For the long version, email me at outreach@lpsf.org and I'll send you my account of the saga.) It happened because government officials like to classify what I, an escort (a.k.a. courtesan, a.k.a. prostitute, a.k.a. sacred intimate) do for a living as a crime. If I was doing it strictly for fun, or if I was being filmed for a movie, they would consider it legal, but because I'm providing a professional service, I'm treated as a criminal.

In the face of incidents like this, I've noticed that even some of those who understand the fundamental injustice being committed are prone to voice reactions such as, "Well, that's to be expected," or "He should have been more careful," *etc.* This is a lot like telling a rape victim that she shouldn't have been wearing something sexy while walking in that dangerous neighborhood after dark. True or not, it's blaming the victim.

Fortunately, most Libertarians have a better instinct for justice than that. The people in our party who've communicated with me about my arrest have without exception reacted with outrage, sympathy, or in most cases both. Libertarians tend to be well aware that with the number of unjust laws enforced against innocent individuals, "There, but for the grace (or inefficiency as the case may be) of the legislature and the police go I."

Of course what happened to me is relatively insignificant in the overall scheme of things. I've been told that the worst I face, statutorily, is 6 months in jail, and that such an outcome would be extremely unlikely, especially with no prior record. By contrast, in the United States alone millions of people are imprisoned for years of their lives for doing nothing more than engaging in peaceful, consensual actions with others. I have tried to do my part to stand up for them and do what I can to help, both in general terms as an activist for freedom and against government aggression, and more directly when I have been aware of an individual's circumstances. Each of us is most empowered to protest the system when we have direct knowledge and access to its victims.

Now, unfortunately, it's my turn to be the victim, and therefore to empower you as well as to ask for your support. Unless I can find an attorney willing to take on this case *pro bono*, or at a reduced rate, it appears that I will face a minimum of \$1,000 in legal fees, more likely between \$1,500 and \$3,000. That's if the case *doesn't* go to trial. From the lawyers I've spoken with, it sounds like going to trial would roughly double the cost.

I have not decided whether or not to go to trial. I want to see what they decide to threaten me with and how good the chances of beating it appear to be. But I'm more likely to stand up to them if I don't have to bear the entire expense myself, so any donations to my "legal defense fund" will be gratefully accepted

(send to Starchild, 3531 16th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114). If you like, you can make a donation contingent on my case going to trial, knowing that if it does, I will certainly do everything I can to put the police and the law on trial and assert my *moral* innocence along with whatever legal defense seems prudent. The other thing you can do directly on my behalf is to come to my court hearings. Judges and prosecutors don't want to look like bad guys to a bunch of supporters (even when they are!). Please call me at (415) 621-7932 for details if you can go.

That's the support part. The empowerment part is being able to say that a friend, or acquaintance, of yours was victimized in this manner. It helps lend moral authority to your opposition to unjust laws. One way you can use this is by calling and writing to the Fremont mayor and city councilmembers, whose email addresses and phone numbers are listed at www.ci.fremont.ca.us/CityHall/MayorAndCityCouncil/. This may not have any effect on my case, but it may help keep similar things from happening to others. Let them know that you object to your tax dollars being spent on targeting "crimes" like prostitution and drug use when police aren't apprehending the violent criminals, and are cutting back on other services. Ask them tough questions, seek responses to your letters and messages, and remember, we have truth and compassion on our side! Whatever the outcome of all this, they are **not** going to stop me from speaking out, running for office, making a living as an escort, and standing up for freedom.

November 8 City Election Results

The LPSF considered and voted on recommendations for the local issues in the November 8 Consolidated Special Statewide Election at our regular meeting on October 8. We recommended YES votes on Measures E and I, which both passed; and we recommended NO votes on Measures B and C, which both failed. Unfortunately, our recommendations for NO votes on Measures A, F, and H went unheeded by the voters, who struck a blow against Liberty by voting for higher taxes, more spending, and disarming the law-abiding citizens of San Francisco.

Measure H, the ban on handgun possession by San Francisco residents as well as on the manufacture, sale, and transfer of any firearms within San Francisco, is headed for an intense legal battle. The City has agreed to delay enforcement of the sale and transfer provisions until March 1, 2006, and a hearing in the San Francisco Superior Court on a challenge to the entire ordinance has been tentatively scheduled for February 15. The ban on handgun possession goes into effect April 1. Please see www.sfgunban.com for more background information and be sure to stay aware of the latest news.

LPSF 2006 Officers

The LPSF has elected its officers for 2006. **Justin Sampson** is our new Chair, **Marcy Berry** is now Vice-Chair, **Mike Acree** remains as Treasurer, and **Chris Maden** returns to the executive committee as Secretary. Thanks to all for their continued dedication to the LPSF.

In related news, LPSF activist **Morey Straus** has been elected to the **Free State Project** Board of Directors. Morey plans to work with other members of leadership to "reignite excitement for the FSP among friends of liberty," and to "support the grassroots activists who are key players in reaching our goals." Congratulations, Morey.

LPSF Wish List

As a small, local organization we rely on donations and the efforts of volunteers to support our activities. Some specific items on our wish list include office space, graphic design services, and printing/copying services; if you can provide any of these, please contact newsletter@lpsf.org! Also please contact outreach@lpsf.org if you or someone you know would be interested in an internship attending meetings of the Board of Supervisors to take notes on behalf of the LPSF.

Members, please make sure we have your e-mail address for urgent announcements between newsletters. Please contact chair@lpsf.org if you haven't given us your e-mail address before.

Calendar

*Regular LPSF meetings are held the second Saturday of every month, from 3:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M. at **Cybelles Front Room** on 9th Ave. at Judah St. The third hour, from 5:00 P.M. to 6:00 P.M., is a free pizza social. **Please note new meeting location.***

Also be sure to catch our TV show, "The Libertarian Revolution," on Comcast cable channel 29 on the first and third Sundays of every month at 12:30 P.M.

Regular LPSF meeting **February 11**

Statewide Libertarian Party convention. The California LP convention this year is taking place on a cruise ship! Please contact the LPSF if you would like to attend, even if you are unsure about the cost. See www.ca.lp.org/convention ...

..... **February 24-27**

Regular LPSF meeting **March 11**

Regular LPSF meeting **April 8**

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| Libertarian Party of San Francisco | | |
| 2215-R Market St. #170 San Francisco, CA 94114 (415) 775-LPSF www.lpsf.org / outreach@lpsf.org | | |
| Chair | Justin Sampson | chair@lpsf.org |
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| Treasurer | Michael Acree | treasurer@lpsf.org |
| Secretary | Chris Maden | secretary@lpsf.org |
| Golden Gate Libertarian | | |
| Editor | Justin Sampson | newsletter@lpsf.org |

Libertarian Party of San Francisco Membership/Donation/Volunteer Form

___ I wish to become a member of the Libertarian Party of California. I understand that I will be joining the local and state levels of the LP, for one of the annual membership rates or the lifetime rate indicated below, and I will receive the *Golden Gate Libertarian* (local newsletter) and *California Freedom* (state newspaper). I choose the following membership category:

New Member (\$25) Renewal (\$50) Sustaining (\$100) Sponsor (\$250) Patron (\$500) Life Member (\$2,000)

(Note: Joining the LP does not automatically make your voter registration Libertarian. Contact the San Francisco Elections Department at (415) 554-4411 to request a voter registration form, or register online at www.ss.ca.gov/elections.)

The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from its principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.

Signature (required for voting membership): _____

___ I wish to make a separate donation of \$_____ to the Libertarian Party of San Francisco. (Membership dues are split between the state and local organizations.) Non-members who donate at least \$15 will receive the *Golden Gate Libertarian* for a year.

___ I wish to volunteer to help with _____

(We're looking for artists, candidates, organizers, programmers, researchers, speakers, writers, and more, but what you do is up to you!)

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone(s): _____ E-mail: _____

Total enclosed: \$_____ Thanks for your help in making our world a better place to live in!

Please make your check payable to the Libertarian Party and mail it with this form to:

2215-R Market Street, PMB 170, San Francisco, CA 94114

Government-Mandated Notices: The Federal Election Commission requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation, and employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate more than \$200 in a calendar year. The IRS requires us to print "contributions are not tax-deductible" on all fundraising appeals.

The Libertarian Party of San Francisco
2215-R Market Street, PMB 170
San Francisco, CA 94114

Visit our Website:
www.lpsf.org



New meeting location
See inside for details