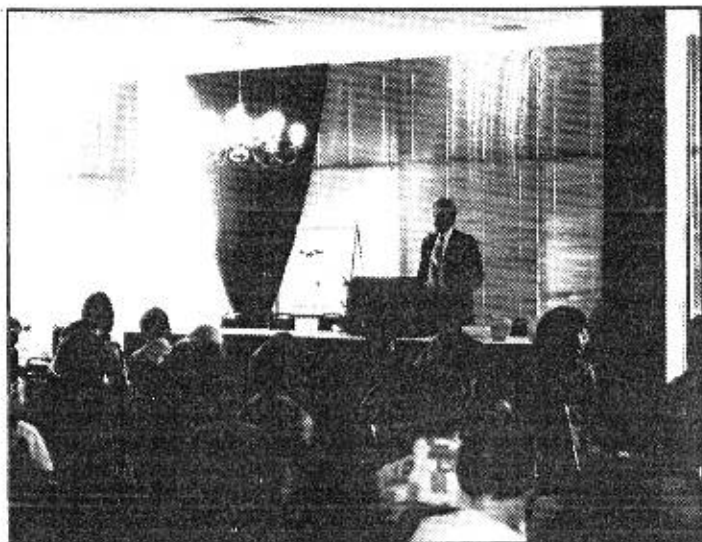


# NEW RAMPART

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Jim Gallagher discusses his project to make the islands off of Southern California independent free ports.

## FREELAND I CONFERENCE A BIG SUCCESS!

by D. E. Tvedt

The morning of April 23, 1983 broke over Long Beach, California, to find over a hundred participants gradually assembling in the Marina Room of the Hyatt House Hotel. The event was "FREELAND I," A libertarian-oriented conference designed to examine the ideas and implications of lifestyles and entire communities created apart from, and hopefully free of, government coercion.

The attendees, paying from \$12 in advance to up to \$30 at the door, were part of the first such conference, — now planned as an annual event.

Designed and promoted primarily by libertarian activist Larry Samuels via his organization FREELAND and co-sponsored by Rampart Institute, the Saturday-long event hosted 10 speakers from across the broad spectrum of libertarian thought and activism—political to anti-political. The speakers' examples and ideas, were equally wide-ranging.

The first speaker was freelance libertarian scholar and feminist author, Wendy McElroy. Her 35 minute talk examined libertarian communities of the nineteenth century and the reasons for their success or failure. The nineteenth century saw many attempts at utopian communities and "societies by contract" for reasons running the gamut from ideological to economic. Her talk also speculated on what some of the historical data might mean for present and future libertarian community movements.

Next on the podium was author and social anthropologist Spencer McCallum. His writings include *The Art of Community* (reviewed in the '83 Loompanics Unlimited main catalog as "the most important sociological tract since *the Wealth of Nations*") and

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## VOLUNTARYIST CONFERENCE DEBATES ELECTORAL POLITICS

In recent years, a growing movement called the Voluntaryists have emerged to give stiff competition to libertarians who get involved in electoral politics.

Perhaps the first major skirmish occurred at the May 7 conference on "Libertarianism vs. Electoral Politics". Held at Cal State Univ., Long Beach, the conference saw Voluntaryist leader and author George Smith debate Less Antman, publisher of official California Libertarian Party state-wide journal "Caliber".

George Smith, author of *Atheism: The Case Against God*, argued that libertarians who support electoral politics (i.e. run for political office) are supporters of the State. For instance, Smith pointed out that it was contradictory for a libertarian to attack the State, and then to try to become part of it. He argued that political libertarians ignored the main axiom of libertarianism—which is non-aggression. This is done so because political libertarians ignore one main fact. And that is, although the political libertarian, by theory, would never use the aggressive capabilities of the State, the fact remains that the power is still there for anyone to use.

Less Antman argued that Electoral Politics was the only means to accomplish the goals of liberty, and especially to educate people on libertarianism.

Tapes are available through the Voluntaryists: Box 5836, Baltimore, MD 21208

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## RICHARD DEYO FILES LAWSUIT ON BEHALF OF THE KIRBYS

Richard N. Deyo, a member of Rampart Institute's Board of Directors, has filed a lawsuit in Long Beach to assist Mrs. Bertha Kirby in regaining her former property.

In early 1983, Mrs. Kirby's house was condemned by the city of Long Beach Housing Authority. After months of refusal, Mrs. Kirby was forced to settle. Although Kirby and her handicapped son can live in their house until they die or move, the land title has been transferred to the nearby Presbyterian Church, which originally sought governmental assistance to condemn Kirby's land in order to build a parking lot.

Richard Deyo is representing Pam Maltzman, the plaintiff, who is a local resident of Long Beach. Deyo contends that the land transfer from the Long Beach Housing Authority to the Presbyterian Church was illegal since the title to Kirby's former property was clouded. Deyo said that if the property is transferred back to the Housing Authority, the agency might give it back to Mrs. Kirby. Hearings on this case will begin in August.

Donations for this case may be mailed to Deyo's office at 12749 Norwalk Bl., suite 112, Norwalk, CA 90690.

## NEW RAMPART

**NEW RAMPART** is published every two months. Subscriptions are \$10 for one year and \$15 for two years. Managing Editor—Lawrence Samuels; Assistant Editor—Sandra Sisson; Contributing Editors—George Smith, Robert LeFevre, Marvin Olsen, Butler D. Shaffer, Caroline Roper Deyo and Charles D. Van Eaton. RAMPART INSTITUTE is a tax-deductible, educational organization. RAMPART INSTITUTE ● P.O. Box 4 ● Fullerton, CA 92632 ● U.S.A.



FREELAND (Cont. from front page)

*Drafting a Constitution for Orbis* (a model contract for a proprietary community in orbit. McCallum revealed the details of an over 10 year old, ongoing, freeport project. Named "Atlantis" by his acquaintance and its driving force, Werner Steifel, the project's accomplishments to date have included a libertarian hotel, a private, silverbased monetary system, and an oceanic, shallow reefbased structure north of Haiti, the near completion of which was tragically aborted by the appearance of a Haitian gunboat. Werner Steifel's determined efforts have and are continuing, (with an understandably lower profile) and he is determined to make his small, multinational pharmaceutical firm, Steifel Laboratories, the first *anational* company. Interested parties can contact him via Mr. McCallum and the Heather Foundation: P.O. Box 48, San Pedro, CA 90733

MIPCI — The Movement for an Independent Pacific Channel Islands was the topic from its founder Jim Gallagher. After an introduction from conference Emcee Howard Hinman, Jim went on to explain his current efforts to introduce the ideas of secession and independence to the inhabitants of Catalina and its neighboring islands. He is currently producing a newsletter which is delivered monthly to each Avalon postoffice box holder. The question period brought out a humorous story from Robert LeFevre concerning "Outer Baldonia" a U.S. diplomat's sovereign prank on a world of nationstates.

Private space enterprise scientist and scholar, Gary Hudson, detailed an amazing series of propositions for 2 miles-wide, floating freeport which could be located 12 miles off the Southern California coast. The nearly unlimited possibilities for such a floating mega-structure range from an airport, to luxurious housing to the provision of fresh water and power for sale. Travel between this free trade zone and the mainland could be a 10 minute trip by highspeed hovercraft. The capital generated by such a venture would soon facilitate an earth/space freeport that would not only become a market place for the many unique products and services possible from off the planet, but would additionally be an example to the world that liberty on a scale larger than a body of theory not only works, but is fun and profitable as well.

After a nohost bar reception and luncheon banquet, the audience was treated to libertarian pioneer Bob LeFevre's humorous, stirring and wisdom-filled talk which included a recounting of the early establishment of his Freedom School in Colorado. He also re-emphasized Spencer McCallum's points which stressed the importance for free community movements to

maintain a low profile in its early stages, and also that the more commercial a community becomes would enhance its progress and ease of operation.

Individual Secession was the idea promoted by author and alternative banker, Anthony Hargis. Anticipating a long time delay for the working out of the many technical and logistical details needed before largescale, freemarket communities become a reality, Mr. Hargis recommended and recommends gaining experience right away with free market mechanisms.

Sally Foster, California LP activist and professional magazine journalist (whose scheduled speaking time was moved ahead due to car trouble) spoke about the statist crushing of a fledgling free country movement in the New Hebrides. Blaming basically the failure of libertarians to stay informed, active and use the media, Ms. Foster read from several periodicals that had misrepresented libertarians and distorted the facts.

Concluding the day's speeches was a panel discussion on "Defending a free society." The three speakers were Samuel E. Konkin III, Author and editor of *New Libertarian* and *Smart Set*; Carol Moore, nonviolent activist, artist and writer; and Jeff Hummel, contributing editor of *Caliber*. Sam Konkin dismissed much of the

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## A STRONG DOSE OF GOVERNMENT CAN WRECK YOUR WHOLE DAY

by Robert LeFevre

The subject of politics has become central to our daily lives. It is clear that the news media view politics as a major topic. I can't recall a front page in recent years which didn't report a political decision or arson or rape or murder. At least one of these disasters has to be featured or no one would buy the paper. Anything as important as politics deserves a close look.

In the classroom, political science is sometimes defined as "the art of (achieving) the possible." Whether we choose to look at it as an art or science, the academic definition seems to indicate that achievement is to be attained by any route whatever. The goal is "how to get what you want." Nothing is said in the definition about whether what is wanted is good, worthy, desirable or even decent. Nothing is said about who or how many will be injured as the achievement of the possible occurs. It is enough that someone wants something and it is possible (politically) to get it.

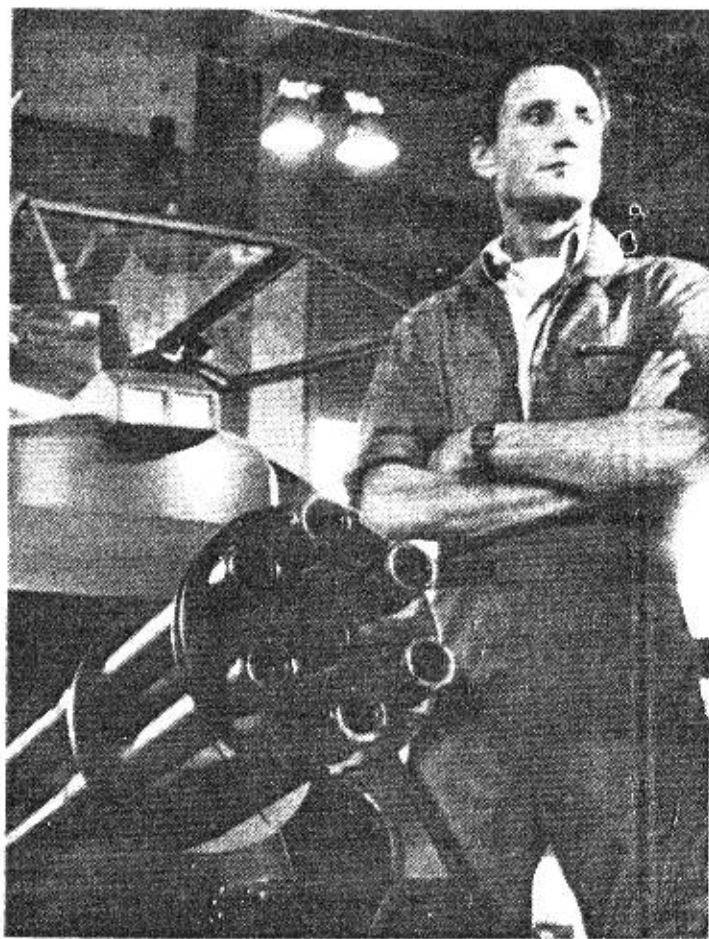
We usually think of politics as being exclusively the purview of government. Actually, politics can crop up in any organization, although the intensity with which it is employed by the politician derives from his expectation for gain. The more the practitioner of the political arts hopes to amass in the form of money or power, the more determinedly he relies on political methods.

There are two areas in which the "genius" of politics emerges. These two are the areas which separate the political method from normal and honest procedures—force and compromise.

When a person wishes to achieve some worthwhile goal, he is quite properly able to expend whatever he himself has in the pursuit. He can spend his own time,

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NEW RAMPART



Roy Scheider plays the pilot of an ultrasophisticated surveillance and attack police helicopter in 'Blue Thunder,' a recent Columbia Pictures release.

## BLUE THUNDER— ANOTHER ORWELLIAN PORTENT

by Sandra Lee Sisson

"All That Jazz" star Roy Scheider is upstaged by his props in this exciting action movie—"Blue Thunder." The "other star" is an armed helicopter named "Blue Thunder" which has enough fire-power and secret surveillance equipment to be ideal for a remake of Orwell's "1984."

As the movie audience is well aware of Scheider's acting abilities, I will throw some statistics your way regarding "the prop": it can prowl the city's skys at 200 miles per hour; its occupants are protected by inch-thick belly armor; it carries a 30,000,000-candle power night sunlamp which can pinpoint any vehicle or person on the ground below; its pilot wears a helmet which enables him to zero in the 20-mm cannon on any target and delivers a devastating 4,000 rounds at the push of a button, merely by moving his head; it can fire, at pilot's choice, any combination of ammunition for anti-personnel, armor-piercing in incendiary attack; it has electronic eyes and ears that can spy on everything that happens in the city below from over 1,000 ft.; it can record a lover's whisper through the thickness of a building's walls, and it can "see" ther-

mographically through those same walls, and record both sight and sound on video tape; it has a computer with access to data banks around the nation, which makes available instant read-outs on persons, places or events, including the "political reliability" of individuals.

The people who control Blue Thunder can, in theory, locate a suspect, collect evidence and conduct a computer trial. If the suspect is found guilty, he could be executed on the spot. All in a matter of seconds.

### EVERYBODY'S GOT SOMETHING TO HIDE

A local Los Angeles police helicopter pilot becomes involved in this federally funded project. The stated purpose for this armed helicopter is to battle terrorists at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics. However, a local city government official is murdered when she uncovers a plot by federal officials to incite minorities to riot in south Los Angeles. Apparently, the feds need some excuse to employ many Blue Thunders across the nation. Anyway, the local police pilot accidentally discovers this plot while joy riding in Blue Thunder. When the feds discover that local police pilot has uncovered their plot, they plan to murder him. Roy Scheider is forced to employ Blue Thunder to save his life as the feds bring massive armament against this almost indestructible aircraft.

What is interesting about this film is that the Federal Government is the bad guys while the local government is caught in the middle, horrified as missiles and gunfire rake Los Angeles in the battle scenes.

Realistically, it shows the feds as unconcerned power elites without principles. When questions of innocent by-standers are brought up concerning Blue Thunder's awesome fire-power, the feds treat it like the Vietnam War. That is, of course, innocent by-standers will be killed, but that their objects are more important; that the ends justify the means.

The real scary part about Blue Thunder is that all of the equipment on this super-copter exists today, but not all on one vehicle. Apparently, the producers of Blue Thunder beat the government to this type of super armed helicopter. However, how long it remains just on film is anyone's guess.

### THE WRONG HANDS

Scheider's co-stars are Warren Oates (recently deceased), who plays the head of the Police Department's Astro Division and Candy Clark, who plays Scheider's ex-girlfriend; both turn in good performances.

The plot is thickened by the fact that our hero's thoughts are being picked up and translated by the copter's scanners even while it's being shown at it's unveiling. Tapes of his seemingly treasonous thinking are the subject of search, chase and intrigue. But all our hero is concerned about is . . . "what if this technology gets into the wrong hands?" (In this case, the hands of evil politicians, generals and agencies).

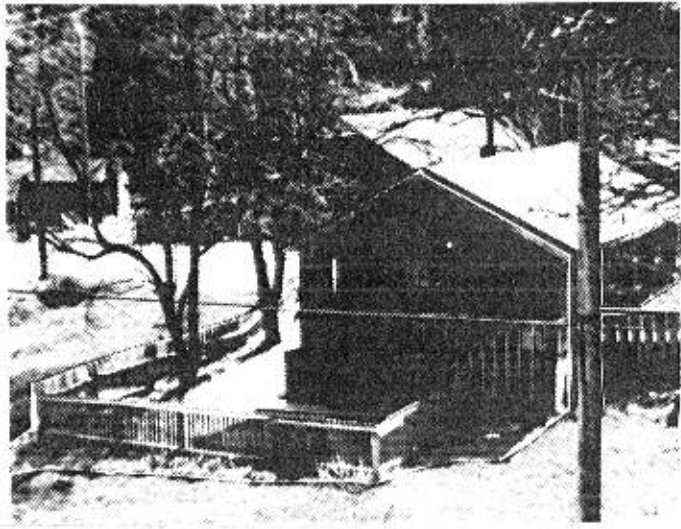
The climax is indeed thrilling and the special effects are competitive with today's masters. I highly recommend this movie, its message is very, very clear and anti-statist.

# TOWN FOR SALE IN THE SIERRAS — JOHNSONDALE

by L. K. Samuels

It is not often that a whole town is put on the auction block. But when it is, the libertarian community foams at the mouth. And so is the case with a ghost town, named Johnsondale, nestled in the Sierra Nevada of Central California.

Put on the auction block in late 1982, Johnsondale, consisting of 750 acres of fee land, was a lumber-mill town that housed hundreds of workers. Almost a



One of the buildings in Johnsondale.

decade ago, the town was shut down and has remained vacant (except for a few maintenance caretakers) ever since. Apparently, there was some economic reason for the closure, probably due to less available timber since the land is completely surrounded by national forestry land.

Johnsondale, which is listed on most maps, has 78 buildings which include 71 residential structures, 2 maintenance buildings and 5 community buildings (a 4,400 sq. ft. dining hall/kitchen complex; 2,900 sq. ft. grocery store; 3,100 sq. ft. town meeting hall; 900 sq. ft. bunk house; and a 400 sq. ft. Post Office). The town is located in a valley at the headwaters of the Kern River and is at 4,700 ft. altitude with the general area ranging from 3,000 to 7,000 ft. Further, Johnsondale, which belongs to Tulare County, is approximately 50 air miles northwest of Bakersfield, California.

Johnsondale does indeed sound inviting. Pine trees abound, a fresh water stream is right on the property and, of course, privacy. So inviting is this location that several libertarians have toured Johnsondale to see whether they could afford the price tag of almost \$4

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million. One libertarian group has actually tried to raise the money by pooling resources in order to get a down payment. In fact, one libertarian offers chauffeured tours to Johnsondale.

Nevertheless, it appears that Johnsondale would present many problems if it were to become a freedom retreat, free of governmental controls and city government. It must be remembered that if Johnsondale were bought by libertarians, it would still be within the boundaries of the United States. If such a town became too independent, and too successful, especially by ignoring state and federal regulations and taxes, it would be invaded by the jolly intruders from Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam usually gets rather upset when he does not get his piece of the action.

However, Johnsondale is much more likely to be unsuccessful, which, ideologically, is far worse. The reason is simple. If a band of free-market advocates cannot make a venture economically successful, especially if they ignore regulations, then doubts would plague the philosophy of free-market economics. Of course, just because a venture is unsuccessful, does not mean the system is unsound; it usually means that management made fundamental errors. And the fundamental error with Johnsondale could be location and what to use it for. Johnsondale is too far from civilization, or better put, too far from Southern California, especially Los Angeles/Orange County area, where most libertarians in California live and work. It would seem that only retired people could afford to live so far away from places of employment. The people of Johnsondale would be hard put to commute each day from the Sierra Nevada to Los Angeles and back.

If Johnsondale is to succeed, it must be economical for people to live in such a distant location. Otherwise, few individuals will purchase land or live in Johnsondale. Of course, recreational cabins could be built for vacationers or a trailer park could be built. But these people would likely visit their cabin or vacation at the trailer park occasionally, perhaps only every other week on weekends. This is hardly a town of financial substance. And according to promotional material on Johnsondale, the town is 150 air miles from Los Angeles. Of course, Johnsondale has no airport.

Still, Johnsondale presents some opportunities. Projects must begin somewhere and Johnsondale could offer that beginning point. With the mass explosion of the computer industry and mail order business, Johnsondale could offer libertarians a quiet haven from noise, pollution and government. Many programmers have retired to Northern California to write software and then, with the help of a telephone modem, transmit their software to their clients. With such technology available, there is no reason to establish a branch office in downtown Los Angeles or in the Irvine business complex. That is just expensive overhead.

With various combinations of enterprises, recreational, retreat seminars, and high technology, Johnsondale might be profitable. Might is the word to remember.

Whether or not Johnsondale is purchased by libertarians, it is always fun to speculate on how a city of the future would operate without centralization, or a government.

# UNION WORKERS WHO'VE WORKED THEMSELVES OUT OF A JOB!

by Charles D. Van Easton

More than a month has passed since President Reagan visited Pittsburgh to address the National Conference on the Displaced Worker. I have been waiting in vain for some network television commentator to offer an in-depth analysis of what happened on that occasion.

What the president said that day is not important. What happened outside the hall before, during and after his address is. A mob—that's the only way it can be described—gathered outside the hall to shout, curse, throw rocks and otherwise protest against the president and his economic policies. This mob was gathered for the occasion by directors of District 15 of the United Steelworkers Union.

The television news people were not only silent about this event, they've been silent on the whole phenomenon of unemployment.

I know they have the research capacity to prepare and present an analysis of why unemployment occurs and what has to be done to reduce it because they routinely research and present reports on a wide range of what are called "social problems." That they have avoided this topic like a snake can be attributed, in my judgment, to two things: moral hypocrisy and cowardice.

If the television networks were to have prepared a report on this shameful incident, what questions should they have asked? I suggest two. First, who were the people protesting the president's visit? Second, exactly what point were they trying to make?

The protesters were, for the most part, unemployed steelworkers and they were trying to make the case that the president was either directly responsible for their unemployment or had the power to cause them to become reemployed, but was refusing to do so. Nothing could be further from the truth. The American steel industry has been in serious trouble for over two decades and unemployment had hit nearly half its employees at least two years before Reagan entered the White House.

The industry has been in the grip of a 20-year death rattle precisely because the United Steelworkers Union has systematically pursued policies which could have only one result—the destruction of the industry. Thus, every unemployed steelworker in that screaming mob was unemployed due to the consequences of policies which years ago they gladly joined in pursuing. They have no one to blame but themselves.

And there is nothing—absolutely nothing—that the president or the Congress can do to put these people back to work in the steel mills without destroying the rest of the economy. If the economy is put through another round of inflation, it would temporarily increase steel employment—but *only* temporarily. Meanwhile, the rest of the economy would suffer.

If foreign steel is completely shut out of the country, it would increase steel employment—but only at the cost of scores of thousands of jobs elsewhere in the

economy.

Economics columnist Warren Brookes recently commented on an important study conducted by economists Richard K. Veder and Lowell E. Gallaway of Ohio State University. In their study, Veder and Gallaway showed that whenever the growth rate of labor costs exceeded the growth rates of product price plus productivity, unemployment increased.

Allen C. Rowenfeld, a noted free-lance writer based in Washington, D.C., has also added vital information on this issue by writing about an important new book by S. Jay Levy and David A. Levy, *Profits and the Future of American Society* (Harper and Row). Their book examines the historic relationship between business profit and employment and shows that any effort to diminish business profit increases unemployment.

The American trade union movement—and especially the Steelworkers Union—has worked for one end: to shift income from business to organized labor by demanding ever-higher wages while at the same time insisting on implementation of work rules which retard productivity. The result? Chronic unemployment!

Why haven't the television newspeople explored this issue? Perhaps because they share the goals of organized labor and refuse to face the truth.

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## FREELAND I CONF. (Cont. from page 2)

current free society fervor as "anarcho-zionism" (the search for the promised gulch). Pointing out that free societies do not appear out of nothing, he emphasized defense in the context of the slow but constantly continuing evolution toward a free society. As agorist condensations within a statist society become more powerful, (coincident with the resultant crumbling of the state) more and more individuals will sign up with freemarket protection and insurance services, thus eventually and effectively driving the state out of business.

Carol Moore emphasized the concept of ideas themselves as being the best defense. Immense public sympathy and nonviolent resistance are two ideas which have been shown to be historically valid in protecting life and freedom. Currently, she noted, the firmly entrenched ideas are mainly those of Divine authority (enforceable by violence) and objective truth—also enforceable by violence. All of these are Newtonian-oriented world views, whereas the emerging, new age-oriented view states that since there is no irrefutable and final truth, there is therefore no right to enforce it with violence.

Jeff Hummel admitted that an anarchist country could not defend itself against a militarized statist neighbor, and therefore some sort of collaboration or compromise was inevitable (this is the same sort of dynamic that keeps Hong Kong and Belgium in existence). Later, some good, pointed questions revealed the need for representation of the Minarchist/National Defense posture which was not represented on the panel.

Fairly good quality cassette recordings of the speakers were obtained (via a lapel condenser mic). Cassette tapes of the FREELAND I speeches are available on cassette tape. Write for free catalog, FREELAND, Box 4, Fullerton, CA 92632.

money or other resources. He can also assemble those friendly to him and his efforts who can voluntarily join with him in the pursuit. It is when these methods fail that the political methods are used.

Force is employed by the politician when he realizes that without its use, he may fail in his objective. He may find that those friendly to him are not friendly enough. He may find that a number of persons might be injured if he got what he wanted. Often he finds that his resources are insufficient even with the allies who have volunteered.

To obtain the necessary force, the politician organizes a gang. In any contest entailing physical process, the weight of numbers is usually decisive. In a prolonged or protracted struggle this is not always true, but at the outset it is a reliable measure. The individual gathering the largest number of troops, cannon, dollars or votes is usually victorious.

How is the gang recruited? By giving rewards or by promising to give them when the political objective is achieved. It should be recognized that political objectives are usually of the grand and glorious kind. Ordinary human things we can take care of without the promising and posturing. It's when we wish to dominate others, cause others to conform to our will, or be praised and eulogized in public that we tend to overreach ourselves and need a gang behind us. This is particularly important if we wish to live on other people's money.

If we steal from others, we run the risk of a term in jail. But if we commit the act of theft in another way and can get a gang to vote that we are deserving of support with the money of others, we not only get the money but we also can wring tears from the hearts of millions.

Organizing a gang and keeping it together isn't easy. This is where what is called "compromise" is first used. To at least some small degree, the politician can count on his gang members having different objectives than his own. Rarely do any two people want precisely the same things at the same time in the same way. So those who join with the politician fancy that while they help him win his objective, they can sharpen their own axes. The "art" of political compromise consists of keeping one's gang together while delaying, obfuscating or sometimes destroying what they want, while still keeping them in line with what you want.

Compromise will be used constantly hereafter. No one is ever really happy with it, but when humans overreach themselves—not being content with their roles as ordinary beings—compromise seems to be like a pressure valve which lets off steam and postpones more serious clashes until the bitterness and rancor of constant frustration become inescapable.

To sum up: politics is the method employed in organizations, usually government, but not limited to it, wherein the ambitions of some can be fulfilled by the uses of compromise carried out by the force of numbers. These fulfilled ambitions are at the expense of those who lose.

With the foregoing in mind, it may appear to some that the only appropriate action in any nation as enchanted with politics as this nation is political action. The whole of society has become a battleground of clashing factions each striving for power. So it would

seem that we all should march and picket and demonstrate and write letters and *get involved*. If we don't, won't our foes simply march over us?

But consider the consequences if you are lured by the power lust. Take the recent demonstration by Vietnam veterans, who, through no fault of their own, were surely placed in an untenable position in regard to the affection of the public. Or the abortive trucker's strike. Or any other march or picket line wherein an effort was made to win a *political* victory of one kind or another. In short, think of a gang whooping it up, and turning on the pressure to obtain a political decision which will benefit some and injure others.

What if we had all joined in? Can you imagine the result? Nearly all of us affect the hands and hearts of the entire populace as a result of the manner in which an economy and a society work. Suppose *we all* marched whenever we felt deeply about something and wanted everyone to agree with us. The result would be an end to production and distribution and the emergence of chaos!

Political decisions aren't that important. They never have been. What is important is *not* making them. Perhaps just learning to live as human beings is the really important task. We can, I think, be grateful to the people often called "apathetic." At least they mind their own business and don't insist that everyone agree with them. Hurrah for the uninvolved!

## NONE OF THE ABOVE IS ALIVE AND WELL

by Sandra Lee Sisson

What if you threw an election and nobody came? Or, what if you had offices to fill and no one wanted to run for them? Sound like utopia? No, it's just a town in West Virginia, Mason, where the would-be officials just want to spend time with their families and get on with their lives.

The facts are that if no one runs and no one votes (under 20 cast), this township of 1,432 will no longer be in existence. The city was chartered 127 years ago and according to Secretary of State John Pratt . . . "if the citizens of Mason don't exercise their privilege to hold office they will be unable to preserve their history."

What is happening then is despite hefty increases in municipal salaries and a plea from the secretary of state, nobody wants to take charge of this tiny community, which could lose its identity if no one runs for office. Several months ago, the City Council voted to raise the salaries of town officials to attract candidates; still there were no takers.

The reasons—"We have absolutely no interest in any office," said Cecil Deverick, a 67-year-old retired accountant who has been mayor for two years but now wants to step down to spend more time with his wife.

Also the five council members and recorder say they don't want to remain in their posts either . . . "they're all afraid of the responsibility they're getting into, that they won't be able to meet it," Deverick said.

Looks like common sense is running rampant in this small Ohio River community and here's hoping it catches on elsewhere!

Associated Press, 4/29/83

# WHY THE BUREAUCRATS HATE LOVE AND LIFE

by Butler D. Shaffer

Be on the lookout, if you will, for Mr. Samuel Willett, wanted by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service for deportation back to Liberia, the land of his birth.

Willett—who is black—was adopted by Mr. and Mrs. David Willett—both of whom are white—while the couple was serving with the Peace Corps in Liberia in the early 1970s. During the adoption proceedings, Samuel, whose date of birth is unknown, was estimated to be 16 years of age.

He came to the United States with his adoptive parents and has lived here ever since. For the past 10 years, Samuel has been hounded by the INS bureaucracy, which has sought his return to Liberia.

Why has the United States government chosen to harass the Willett family? Samuel has not been charged with any heinous offense. He does not engage in the business of selling drugs to schoolchildren, or conspire to overthrow school lunch programs. He is not even accused of having sneaked into the country by dark of night.

In fact, Samuel Willett gives every indication of being an honest, decent human being, the sort of young man one would like to have for a neighbor or fellow worker. He even enjoys what many young men and women do not enjoy in this country: a loving family relationship.

Willett's "offense" against the foundations of the republic goes far beyond the kind of run-of-the-mill transgressions that often result in the deportation of foreign-born thugs, mobsters and terrorists. His Liberian adoption, you see, was inconsistent with a provision in the American immigration statutes that denies automatic residency to foreigners who are 15 years of age or older at the time of adoption.

This is serious stuff. Consider the implications of permitting Americans to fall in love with just any foreign child without first eliminating as the object of their love those whose ages fail to meet with the approval of such renowned guardians of good judgment as United States senators and congressmen.

How long could this nation survive if men and women were allowed to open up their hearts indiscriminately to just any child, without having first consulted the rules and regulations by which pettifogging public nuisances profess to advise the rest of us on everything from the art of loving to getting out of bed without fracturing our pelvis?

Those who would reach out to love others must learn to be more systematic; they must learn to do what every concrete-bound bureaucratic automation has long accepted as a first premise: do things by the book. There is nothing that so disquiets these paralyzed minds as an individual who does not march in lockstep formation with the rest of the herd.

The Willett case is so representative of the utterly petty nature of all bureaucratic minds. The bureaucrat is an expression of the lifeless, spiritless existence that awaits all who try to find meaning within institu-

tional walls. But a bureaucracy coupled with that most vicious of institutions, the political State, produces far more than inconsiderate pettiness.

There is a vile quality to political bureaucracy that derives not just from a need for undeviating fidelity to established procedures, but from an apparent need to thwart the wills of other people.

Some may already have observed the irony in the Willett case: at a time when other branches of the political bureaucracy are trying to force blacks and whites into relationships they do not want (e.g., school busing, EEOC actions against private acts of discrimination), the INS mandarins are busy trying to pry apart an interracial family that is fighting to remain intact.

The inconsistency is not as great as it might at first appear, for the underlying logic of all political systems is to forcibly deny men and women their own choices. It is essential to the success of statism not just to have politicians dictating the choices of others, but to accustom people to accept choices they do not want.

If the political State was only doing what everybody wanted, it would quickly take on the trappings of a marketplace institution.

So it is that every bureaucracy, from public school administrators to the slugs at the Department of Motor Vehicles to the INS, has a need to reinforce our conditioned obedience to its most arbitrary will. For the existence of the political State demands more than simply our cooperation: it requires our continuing acknowledgement of the State's rightful authority to force us to do what we don't want to do and to keep us from doing what we do want to do.

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## POT SHOTS

### ... WORTH A "NICKEL" THESE DAYS

The nickel is having its 117th anniversary this year! Let's see, now what can you get with a nickel... won't pay sales tax on a dollar; in 1895 you could buy a dozen onions, now they cost \$1.59; a 5 cent bag of raisins, now \$1.02; a 5 cent box of crackers, now 99 cents; a 5 cent box of kitchen matches 37 cents; a 5 cent bar of soap, is now 33 to 95 cents. As for nickel cigars, a thing of the past — 25 cents to a buck. As for nickel beer... no more. No more nickel phone-calls, parking meters or 5 and 10 cent stores for that matter.

We used to have nickelodeons, nickle candy and popcorn. A Pepsi-Cola radio commercial once touted 12 ounces in a jingle: "Twice as much for a nickel too..." (the same drink in cans now costs 50 cents in vending machines). Even as a collector's item, nickels aren't too popular according to an Orange County Coin shop.

But the free lunch is around... have you been to "Happy Hour" lately? Drinks are anywhere from \$1 to \$2.50, but you can have all the munchies you want between 4 and 6 p.m.—for about a nickel's worth of booze!

*(Much of material came from an article in The Register)*

### WHO SAYS THE WEATHER IS FREE?

Not the government these days! The Reagan administration's proposal to sell excess government weather satellites is meeting with some opposition!

Trying to deregulate the weather is like trying to increase a snowball's chance in hell... or to put it another way—where there's smoke there's a fair weather friend with a silver lining!

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Currently, U.S. taxpayers pay more than \$1 billion a year for the U.S. Weather Service, while many of those who most require accurate weather information are also paying private firms to gather or analyze weather for them. This is similar to taxpaying parents who, dissatisfied with government schools, must pay both school taxes and tuition if they enroll their children in a private school.

There is already a thriving, multi-million dollar private weather-forecasting industry. In fact 26 percent of American meteorologists are employed by the federal government (aside from the military); over 40 percent work in private industry.

Comsat, a privately-held communications company, has offered to purchase the four satellites and Landsat that are currently up for sale for \$300 million. But Comsat will only buy the satellites if it can get a guarantee that the government will continue purchasing weather information for up to 15 years after the sale. This means that instead of true privatization, the Reagan proposal would simply convert a government enterprise into a taxpayer-subsidized business. And the administration has admitted that this proposal would probably not result in savings to taxpayers.

The Landsat Advisory Committee recently concluded that the Weather Service would have to be completely privatized before weather data would be truly marketable, since the market is distorted so drastically by government data collection.

Since our food, our clothing and our shelter are provided for by the market-place, why not the weather... obviously the best things in life are not free because rain-drops keep falling on my head...

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