

# Liberty Rising

## What's happening?

### LP Sonoma

February 3, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa



### LP Sonoma

March 3, 2010 – 4:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa.  
Note: Same place but a different time.

### LP Sonoma

April 7, 2010 – 7:00 P.M., Round Table Pizza, 1003 Guerneville Rd., Santa Rosa

### Bill of Rights Day

December 15, 2010 – A perfect day to pen a note to the President and Congress that you will not give up your Tenth Amendment rights!

### Everyday

Libertarian politicians won't help you line your pockets, but neither will they pick your pockets. While the rich can stand to lose their pocket change, can the poor?

## What's a Libertarian to do?

### Fulfill King's dream

You would do well to study Dr. Martin Luther King's "letter from Birmingham jail." His first paragraph could have been lifted from an Ayn Rand novel. King says, "Seldom do I pause to answer criticism of my work and ideas." From there it becomes a powerful cry for freedom, no, a defiant demand for freedom.

In King's second paragraph he defends his willingness "to engage in a nonviolent direct-action program." Shades of "tea party" activism!

Dr. King felt "compelled to carry the gospel of freedom beyond my own home town." Indeed, "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The struggle for freedom is not for the faint of heart. King said it required us to "present our very bodies as a means of laying our case before the conscience of the local and the national community."

King also warned us that "privileged groups seldom give up their privileges voluntarily." Further, he said that "freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." King continued in this vein, pointing out that, "one has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws," and that "an unjust law is no law at all."

In particular King finds unjust those laws "inflicted on a minority that ... had no part in enacting or devising the law." Mobile home space rent control laws are unjust per Dr. King's definition.

It is time to remember and honor Dr. Martin Luther King and the price he

was willing to pay in his quest to secure freedom for all Americans.

Add King to the list of Wollstonecraft, Wallenberg, and Parks, as giants who must not fade from our memories.

## News break

### Free speech affirmed

In a tight 5-4 vote, which tells much about the disdain our liberal justices hold for the Constitution, the Supreme Court struck down restrictions on free speech.

For far too long the Court has insisted that "Congress shall pass no law" really means they can pass a law restricting free speech if they just pick on someone unpopular – like the owners of corporations. One hundred years of liberal despotism has come crashing down, just in time for the critical 2010 elections.

Send your legislators a copy of the Constitution!

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## LP Sonoma

### LP Sonoma officers

The current officers were re-elected at the January 6 meeting and will be sworn in as Central Committee members by the County Registrar of Voters.

Chair Kate Moore  
Vice-Chair David Koolhoven  
Secretary Frank Ball  
Treasurer James Oglesby

Contact LP Sonoma, of course.

Note the masthead – this is the first issue of volume four! Admittedly, volume one had only one issue, but still, we've had at least one issue in each of four consecutive years.

It takes about twelve hours to slap together an issue, with twenty hours being a more reasonable estimate to select and develop thoughtful stories. Don't forget to send in stories from your local paper.

### What's the answer?

Q: *What local issues need our help?*  
A: *Cotati is holding a special election to raise the sales tax. Guerneville is planning of a parcel tax to increase its fire department funding. Santa Rosa is looking at all sorts of tax and fee increases to bail itself out of its financial mess.*

### What do you know?

### Helping Haiti

Is it more unconscionable to help Haiti than to not help? Since temporary help provides no lasting solution to their misery, would not helping be better?

CNN contributor David Frum recently made this powerful case: "Accept that Haiti cannot govern itself. Close the government, fire the president and cabinet, and put the NGOs [non-governmental organizations] fully in charge." There are about 10,000 such organizations operating in Haiti and they account for

90% of the public investment in agriculture.

Compare economic progress in West Germany versus East Germany, North Korea versus South Korea, Taiwan versus China, Hong Kong versus most anywhere, Mexico after NAFTA with Mexico before, every such comparison proves the superiority of free markets over government planned economies. If Martin Luther King is correct, then Haitians deserve such freedom as much as anyone else. Is it time to make Haiti a United States protectorate? If only our government, our President, our Congress, and our people believed in freedom. Sadly, without a free market economy Haitians are doomed to misery no matter how much temporary aid is given.

Privatize, deregulate, and un-tax, that's the Libertarian prescription.

## Comics

### 1/24 The Press Democrat

Al Liner of Santa Rosa says he "could have sworn I was taught that we lived in a democracy." I don't doubt that, but we live in a constitutional republic, something far different than a democracy that is so easily diverted into tyranny. The Senate's 60-vote cloture rule seems in line with: (1) Five Supreme Court Justices over-ruling the President and a unanimous Congress. (2) The President vetoing a unanimously passed law. (3) The separation of powers between three branches of the federal government, complete with a variety of checks and balances. (4) The House has proportional representation while the Senate has two representatives for each state regardless of their population. (5) The division of powers between the federal government and the states. (6) The requirement for 3/4 of the states to approve of any amendment to our Constitution.

Perhaps Mr. Liner should remember that nearly 200 million people were murdered by their own governments in the last century. Governments, I might add, that were not hampered in doing what needed to be done.

### 1/24 The Press Democrat

In an opinion piece, Erwin Chemerinsky (dean of the UC Irvine School of Law) complains bitterly of the lack of judicial restraint in the recent Supreme Court ruling affirming free speech. He calls the overturning of 100 years of precedent judicial activism. Sadly he just doesn't get it. Judicial activism is re-interpreting the Constitution to mean something different than what was plainly written by the founders. Overturning unconstitutional laws is always the proper role of the Supreme Court.

*"Government, we are told, exists to protect us against anarchic violence that threatens life, liberty and property. In practice the government ruling us is always and everywhere the single largest source of lethal violence and most acute threat of the same."*

William Norman Grigg

### 1/23 The Press Democrat

Mary O'Connor of Sebastopol worries about the recent Court decision affirming free speech via an analogy to the Second Amendment. She wonders, "What will keep the corporations from maintaining private armies?"

First, they already have armies – armies of lobbyists seeking to take advantage of competitors and the consumers, and armies of lawyers searching for ways around laws and regulations.

More importantly, corporations have no need for actual armies as it is much cheaper and safer to simply compete for consumer approval. Ms. O'Connor does not seem to comprehend how personally dangerous it would be for the owners of a corporation to attempt to force themselves upon society.

## 1/22 The Press Democrat

Dominick J. Di Noto of Cloverdale is demanding Obama-style health care reform. One must wonder why he doesn't simply join with other like-minded individuals and start a cradle-to-grave health plan.

Di Noto has nicely side-stepped (assuming he saw them) all of the core issues: (1) the immorality of forcing anyone else into accepting and paying for that which they do not want. (2) The un-constitutionality of federal involvement in health care (or health insurance). (3) The source of much of what is wrong with our current system – the federal tax code and state restrictions on competition. (4) The financial straits of the federal government (\$1.5 trillion expected deficit, \$12 trillion current debt, and \$100 trillion in unfunded Social Security and Medicare liabilities). (6) The 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics for research showing the superiority of voluntary solutions. (7) The proven superiority of market provided goods and services.

## 1/22 The Press Democrat

Wailing against the Supreme Court's affirmation of free speech, *The Press Democrat* warns of several dangers. The first is opening "the floodgates of special interests." Apparently they've already forgotten the \$300 million purchase of the vote of the Senator from Louisiana, the \$30 billion purchase of the vote of the Senator from Nebraska, and the bailout of the union workers at GM and Chrysler.

Then they worried over the "surge in campaign spending." You see, "bridges to nowhere" are fine, but darn those people voluntarily spending money on election campaigns.

Finally, the local paper of record is ag-hast over the prospect that such spending will "further muddy the waters of truth and, at worst, have a corrupting influence." Well, since we can't get the truth from the media why not get the truth from campaign ads? Why is the "corrupting influence" of Obama and CNN okay, while that of Ford Motor Co. and United Parcel Service not okay?

*The Press Democrat* suggests that "voters beware," but of the wrong thing. Look at the first paragraph above. Shouldn't *The*

*Press Democrat* be warning voters of the political corruption that is smothering our freedom?

## 1/21 The Press Democrat

Norman Solomon of Point Reyes Station is outraged over the anti-union tactics of Memorial Hospital. Lost in his rhetoric is any comprehension that the owners of a business have the natural right to run their own business, including telling unions to get lost.

Perhaps unions and their supporters should start their own pro-union businesses. A free market will quickly tell which method is best for employees.

### Directory

*LibertyRISING* is published by the Libertarian Party of Sonoma County, James R. Oglesby editor. The deadline for the February issue is 2/15/10. Please submit your letters, opinion pieces, and news to:

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Libertarian Party of Sonoma County:  
[www.LPSonoma.org](http://www.LPSonoma.org)

Libertarian Party of California  
[www.LPC.org](http://www.LPC.org)

*"In a moral society, your fear of freedom cannot require my forfeiture of liberty."*

Vantage Vigilance Valor

## 1/18 The Press Democrat

Billionaire Ted Turner has offered to save Yellowstone National Park's 800 bison from slaughter. He will caretake them for five years in exchange for 90% of any bison offspring. Predictably environmentalists are up in arms, but not so predictably so are hunters and property law experts. It is claimed that this simple voluntary contract would set "a dangerous precedent for

the commercialization of public wildlife.

First, the so-called public wildlife would be saved from slaughter. Second, all of the public wildlife would be safeguarded and returned to the "public trust" in five years. The payment for this service would be taken via bison calves that do not yet exist!

As you can see, the free market works poorly to the extent that government actively prevents it from working. Let's privatize bison and then do the same for whales.

## 1/17 The Press Democrat

In an opinion piece Mark Alton (Rancho Cotate teacher) exempts teachers from blame over the current education mess and instead points the finger at others. Students are to blame (lack of attendance, lack of sleep, poor behavior, etc.), as are parents (poor child-raising, failure to motivate, etc.).

Missing from this fairy tale is recognition that students and parents have no real say in the classroom, no choice. Instead, students and parents happily pay attention to what they can control.

It really is the teachers' fault, as they support the unions which support the politicians that have so corrupted our government school system. It is time to shout "privatize, de-regulate, and un-tax!"

## 1/16 The Press Democrat

An editorial from the Miami Herald assures banks that "greed isn't good." Let's be a little more specific. In a market economy greed is good. If the greed leads to bad decisions the greedy suffer losses and their investment capital. This makes it easier for firms making good decisions to prosper.

In contrast, greed in the government prodded economy is probably bad. It leads firms to make bad decisions based on freely available low-interest government loans. It leads firms, under relentless prodding, to make risky loans backed up by quasi-government mortgage companies (Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac).

Let's not do away with such a beneficial motivation as greed. Rather, let's

do away with the corrupting notion that cattle prods will lead to good results with humans.

## 1/12 The Press Democrat

The City of Santa Rosa is apparently going to take the \$20 million bribe and grant North Bay Corporation a ten-year extension to their already lucrative contract. The rate-payer is better served by competitive bidding. The City is better served by bribes. Easy choice.

### Media silence

## Media bias

Perhaps there is a simple explanation for media bias – they primarily cover stories that are “worth” it. Since anti-liberal, Conservative, and Libertarian stories are not “worth” it, they don’t get coverage.

The recent Massachusetts Senate election nicely displayed this media bias. Both CNN and MSNBC gave about four times the coverage to the election-eve speech of the losing Democrat as opposed to the speech of the winning Republican. Also of note, Time Magazine did a review of 2009 in pictures without showing any of the many tea party demonstrations.

By remaining ignorant of viewpoints opposing progressives, liberals, and Democrats, the media freely mangles and misrepresents those viewpoints.

### My \$0.02

January 15, 2010

Dear Editor,

The Libertarian Party has long been a defender of gay and lesbian rights, including taking a firm “NO” position against the ban on gay marriage. In spite of that, it is fair to wonder if the strongest argument against gay marriage is the very existence of the gay and lesbian communities.

Did that go over your head? The gay and lesbian communities have

carefully chosen separate labels for their lifestyles. Labels are important to them, just as labels are important to the “straight” community. Perhaps marriage is one of those labels.

I look forward to the day when we can get past these labels and deal with each other as individuals. In the meantime, perhaps government officials should record civil unions for all, while marriages are left for churches to deal with, each in their own way.

Sincerely,  
James R. Oglesby

This is the opinion section. Send in your two cents worth, just keep it short. Longer opinion pieces are welcome. Very long articles will be considered for publication on a \$20/page fee basis (you pay to cover the additional printing and postage costs).

### Your Econ Guru

## School economics

Economics is well suited to simple thought experiments. Try this one. Coordinate with a neighbor to go grocery shopping at the same time (preferable at different stores). Then, when you both get home swap groceries. How satisfied are you? While mostly edible, you probably didn’t get the food you wanted. Your neighbor possibly purchased far more sundries and only three days of groceries versus the seven days of groceries you purchased for him.

*“People who are highly motivated to learn generally do learn; those who are not motivated seldom do . . . . Without effective student motivation, nothing else matters much.”*

G.L. Bach

Shopping and paying for your own groceries works best for the same reason that shopping and paying for your own education works best – self interest. By separating the transaction into four units (payer/taxpayer, provid-

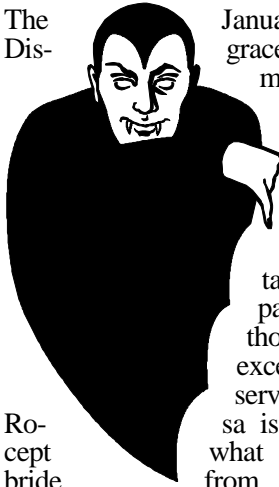
er/school board, consumer/students, and demander/parents) we have created a Gordian knot that makes it impossible to satisfy anyone.

Give control back to students and their parents, the shopper/payers, and the market place will respond with bountiful variety. Compare ten randomly selected schools in Sonoma County. Do you find any meaningful differences? Now, Google “Sudbury Valley School,” “Arbor Montessori Middle School,” “Classroom Mini Economy,” “choice theory in the classroom,” and “American Indian Public Charter School.” Finally, look up Joseph Lancaster in Wikipedia. Remove the barriers and the free market will provide

Win-win-win is the name of the game when it comes to private schools. Teachers will earn market wages and benefits and can earn all they want by teaching more students. Students will find and enjoy challenging schools that will actually prepare them for real life. Parents will both save money and reap the benefits of seeing their children receive a quality education.

As usual, privatize, de-regulate, and un-tax.

### Disgrace in government

The Dis-  
 January award for grace in Government has been earned by the City of Santa Rosa for its effort to suck the last drop of blood from taxpayers and particularly from those who pay excessive fees for services. Santa Rosa is poised to accept from their private garbage hauler in order to avoid competitive bidding on a new contract.

This newsletter registered 9.9 on the Flesch-Kincaid grade level scale, with 2,940 words.