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## Libertarian

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE GREATER VANCOUVER LIBERTARIAN ASSOCIATION

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### LIBERTARIAN SUPPER CLUB

## *Education Establishment Assailed*

by Robin Gillespie

Tunya Audain is a fighter. For twenty years she has been fighting the BC educational establishment, first for her own children and then out of growing interest in the whole educational process.

On May 11, a crowd of about 40 libertarians turned up at Mother's Pizza in Coquitlam to hear the conclusions she has come to. (The audience included a number of infants, apparently intent on reforming their education as early as possible.)

Ms. Audain's basic conclusion: state education is governed by powers inimical to students and their parents. She told us that parents want educational reform essentially because the system is not performing; it is not educating the students. In addition, it is costly and wasteful. Educators are not accountable (at least to the parents - those who pay for the system.)

She further argued that the system is not in touch with current knowledge or practice, in fact, it sometimes actively damages children. The school system excludes parents from their children's education. It treats parents as children who cannot possibly know how to teach their own

kids. That job, the educational establishment believes, can only be done by specially trained professionals.

With these indictments against it, it is a wonder that anyone supports the school system as it is. According to Ms. Audain, there are essentially two groups who support it: those who work in it (those who get jobs and power from it); and politicians whether in or out of office, who use the system to push their ideology on the students. Note, for instance, the BC government's recent introduction of a 30 hour Social Studies unit on EXPO.

But the situation is not hopeless says Ms. Audain. The forces for change include the consumer movement, the entrepreneurial education movement and the fastest growing educational reform movement, home education. The growth of home education is phenomenal. In 1983 in BC, 250 families were teaching their children at home. By 1985, the figure has risen to about 2000, an 800% increase! Even the government has gotten into the act with the creation of the Open Learning Institute.

Ms. Audain is also firmly commit-

(continued on page 3)

# The De-indexing Fuss

There has been a great deal of wailing and gnashing of teeth lately over the Tory proposal to de-index seniors' pensions. That old sacred cow (sacred trust to some) has been violated. What has been overlooked in the uproar is the proposal to de-index tax deductions. This proposal will affect a much greater number of people than the de-indexing of pensions. Yet we have heard nary a peep of protest. The Canadian taxpayer (who now has to work until July 1 to pay all his taxes according to the Fraser Institute) has meekly accepted the government's proposal for tax increases via bracket creep.

What is particularly insidious about the proposal is its sly approach. We are told that indexing will still apply if inflation is over three percent so not to worry. So our taxes can creep up just a miniscule bit every year and no one will notice. But of course, they don't tell you that the government that de-indexes slightly now, may de-index

even further in the future.

The revenue boys have gotten a toe in the door (or a finger in the pocket) now. Next budget, who knows? Maybe they'll bump the indexing kick in point to 6% inflation. By the time the Tory term has expired and a new election is called, we won't have any indexing at all.

Some might think partial de-indexing a good thing because it shows government's determination to control our budget deficit (it will now be only \$30 billion instead of \$33 billion). And having indexing kick in at 3% may serve as an incentive to the government to keep inflation below 3%. Dream on if you believe that.

Should inflation go above 3%, the government will see that as an incentive to de-index further. The government has placed us on a perilous slippery slope. At the bottom of that slope lies total de-indexing of tax deductions. Voter (and taxpayer) beware!!!!

Marco den Ouden Editor

## SUMMER BARBECUE



See page 4

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* In religion, the supreme value is
* inflexibility, which the faithful
* call "consistency"; in politics,
* the supreme value is inconsistency
* which the loyal call "flexibility."
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* - Thomas Szasz
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# Tax Protest Day a Success

by Paul Geddes

ted to the educational voucher system which would allow parents to receive vouchers for their education taxes. The voucher could be used on any government-approved facility or program of the parent's choosing. She recommends the abolition of school boards and reestablishment of each school, public or private, which receives government money, as a non-profit corporation.

A lively question and answer period followed Ms. Audain's talk. Many did not believe education could change as long as the money to pay for it is collected compulsorily as taxes. Walter Boytinck argued that the voucher program is positively dangerous as it would allow the government to interfere with any institution to which parents chose to send their children.

Ms. Audain replied that she was very grateful for people like us who held such extreme positions for it makes people like her appear reasonable. She may be right. As 19th century Libertarian hero Lysander Spooner said concerning slavery, "We must all be abolitionist in attitude for we will certainly be gradualist in practice."

It is clear that it is in the state's benefit that state education continues. It is through the educational system that state propaganda can be most effectively dispensed and the proper servile attitudes inculcated. In Alberta recently, a provincial government committee chaired by MLA Ron Glitter recommended the abolition of all private schools in the province. In Japan, a South Korean was barred from teaching public school because (said a Ministry of Education official) "people who have sworn allegiance to a foreign country cannot be given jobs which involve formation of the public will..."

Perhaps the valiant efforts of people like Ms. Audain will stem the tide of bureaucratized, politicized state education and herald a resurrection of student and parent oriented education.

Tax Protest Day, April 30, 1985 was a success in Vancouver thanks to the efforts of Bill & Elaine Tomlinson, Sandy MacDonald, Lewis Dalby, Martin MacDonald and myself. Bill printed 1000 brochures titled "Revenue Canada Out of Control" and we started distributing them at the Revenue Canada building 1166 Pender St., in downtown Vancouver at 10:30 am that Tuesday morning. By noon we had gone through our first batch of 500 and we knew we didn't have enough to last the day. Bill quickly ran to a printshop to get a second thousand run off.

Many of our 'customers' were Revenue Canada employees who seemed quite amused by our brochure although I don't believe we persuaded any to quit and get an honest job. An early visitor was columnist Marjorie Nicola of the Vancouver Sun. She had come to pick up an income tax form and stopped to chat with us. We believe that she was responsible for getting fellow columnist Pete McMartin to interview us and write the column that appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

By 5 p.m. the street had quietened down so we moved over to the post office to find new customers. It was incredibly hectic there. I was doing great business holding open a door for the public and urging the taxpayers "not to be willing victims" until a security guard asked me to get off the 'private' property. Being a respecter of property (although I thought it ironic to be used in that circumstance) I complied and post office patrons had to open their own door.

Special thanks must go to Elaine for coming by with sausage rolls, fried chicken and refreshments. Total cost of the expedition was \$87 and time. The benefits? A few inquiries, a donation, a couple of new members and a column in the newspaper. Not bad for our first year out. With a few more people next year we could cover a few more locations and do even better.



# Summer Barbecue

The GVLA will have its annual spring meeting a little late this year, July 27 to be exact. The place: Marco's house - 19519 115A Avenue, Pitt Meadows. The time: 1:00 PM. This won't just be a mundane meeting at which to elect a new executive for the GVLA (although that is on the agenda). For the most part, the meeting will be a social get together. Everyone is invited to bring along some steaks or hot dogs or hamburgers to barbecue. Also bring along beverages, salads or whatever.

If anyone can supply grills for the occasion, please let us know. See you at the barbecue. R.S.V.P to Marco 465-4683, or Paul 438-6127 if you need a ride. Please do this as soon as you read this.

Don't wait for us to ask you to get further involved with the GVLA. If you have fresh ideas about how to spread the philosophy of liberty we'd be happy to hear from you. There is so much to do. If you are interested in serving on the executive of the GVLA call Paul or Bill 980-7370.

**T**HE DEADLINE to file income tax returns passed yesterday, and all day taxpayers raced down to Revenue Canada headquarters on Pender to squeak in under the wire.

Bill Tomlinson and Paul Geddes were there to greet them. The sidewalk in front of the 17-storey building was a frenzy of grim urgency, with flapping citizens jumping out of double-parked cars. They sprinted into the building to drop their completed returns with the security guard, then dashed out again to their idling cars before the light turned.

This cross-sidewalk dash was where Bill and Paul intercepted them. Like 440-relayers handing off batons, they slipped their pamphlets into the palms of the harried taxpayers who were so beside themselves with the thought of giving Ottawa their money they accepted the pamphlets without comment.

This is what the pamphlet said:

"REVENUE CANADA: OUT OF CONTROL." Underneath that was a drawing of a wild-eyed, slaving dog with its teeth bared. The pamphlet continued:

"Taxes used to be voluntary, and technically, they still are. But when was the

## 'We believe to

last time you felt like you were getting your money's worth?

"We haven't felt that way for a long time. That is why we are protesting today."

And at the bottom, it said: "TAX DAY PROTEST/ April 30, 1985."

Both Bill and Paul are members of the fledgling Libertarian Party of B.C. For them April 30 is both enough to make you grit your teeth, and hope for a brave new world.

"We're not telling people not to pay their taxes," Bill said. Bill was 51, and a plumber. He wore a button on his lapel that said "More Government Is The CAUSE Not The Solution."

"We're not telling them to break the law. We just believe," he said matter of factly, "taxation is theft."

"Here," Paul said, handing a pamphlet to a woman going into the building to drop off her return. "Don't be a willing victim."

"Believe me," she said, "I'm not willing."

**PETE Mc  
CITY**

Paul, a 30-year-old teacher, said of himself: "I think most of us believe that it's a duty they can turn that anger into will through education to reduce taxes."

Libertarians, in this sense, are sort of liberalist-convinced anarchists removing the pressure from most human endeavors has its uses — in the police forces, for instance presently conceded activities — schooling, medicine — they feel burdened by many claims on his money. "I want these services

"Has anyone told you about the Hood?" said another who wandered over from

# Next Supper Club

The next libertarian Supper Club is scheduled for Saturday, August 31st. Time and location will be announced in our August newsletter. The speaker will be psychologist Michael Edelstein, PhD from Yeshiva University, New York and a colleague of Albert Ellis, originator of rational-emotive therapy. Dr. Edelstein is in private practice at the Pine Street

Counselling Center in Kingston, New York. He is a long time libertarian and will be speaking about the relationship between psychology and libertarianism. He will be comparing, contrasting and evaluating the views of well-known libertarian psychologists such as Nathaniel Branden, Peter Breggin and Thomas Szasz.

The column below appeared in The Sun on May 1, 1985. Reprinted by permission.

## taxation is theft'

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his post. His name

was Sandy. Sandy did not pay taxes this year, and has not for some time. He wore a button with the Statue of Liberty on it.

"It's a common misconception," Sandy said, "that Robin Hood stole from the rich and gave to the poor, and that the Sheriff of Nottingham and his bunch were the bad guys.

"While the sheriff may have been a rich guy, he was also the appointed tax collector for the government of the day. He wasn't a badguy: he was a bureaucrat doing what he was appointed to do.

"Next year," Sandy said, "we're going to bring in a live sheep and have him sheared in front of the place."

At 5 p.m., the Revenue Canada offices closed for the day and modern-day Sheriffs of Nottingham filed out of the building. They regarded the three Robin Hoods with interest. Some asked for the pamphlet.

When the question of political effectiveness was mentioned, Paul, who was a card-carrying New Democrat before his conversion to libertarianism (and in the process losing more than a few friends),

pointed to Alaskan state representative Bill Randolph as a libertarian triumph. As the lone libertarian elected to the state legislature, Randolph succeeded in forging an all-party coalition that did away with state taxes and the regulation of the state's transport industry.

"Where do movements start?" Paul said. He answered his own question. "With small groups of people getting together and talking. This age of collectivism we are in now began with people getting together and talking about their ideas, and I assume they were ideas they cared about. Libertarianism is a small political force now, but who knows? It could be libertarians' turn in the future."

Meanwhile, while we waited for the future, not all citizens welcomed the trio's efforts Tuesday. One older man berated Paul loudly, yelling and pointing a stern finger at him.

Paul, slightly unnerved by the incident, said to me:

"He told me to get off the streets and get a job." He shook his head. Then with a frustrated voice he said:

"I got a job! That's the problem! Somebody stole my money and I want to know how to get it back!" □

# Issue Oriented Allies

by Paul Geddes

Libertarians are not alone in trying to change the world. Sometimes we must join with non-libertarians on particular issues where we have a common cause. Here are some organizations which may help bring some of the desired changes that Libertarians also support.

1. **The Sakharov Institute**, 310-1070 W Broadway, Vancouver V6E 1E7 Ph: 733-1742 (Annual membership-\$40) The Sakharov Institute has begun a series of fundraising luncheons to get the institute established and to bring speakers to Vancouver who can contribute to an intelligent analysis of communism and its effects. The first luncheon was held June 6th and featured veteran journalist Charles Wiley from the Washington DC based Accuracy in Media (AIM). AIM is a self-appointed watchdog committed to obtaining an accurate media image of communism. Wiley blasted the western media for its double standards of playing hard ball with democratic governments but treating communist officials with kid gloves.

A second luncheon is planned for Thursday, August 8th and features Professor Paul Hollander from the University of Massachusetts (Amherst). Hollander is the author of the bestseller, Political Pilgrims: Travels of Western Intellectuals in the Soviet Union, Cuba and China. Hollander is amazed by the western intellectual's failure to apply equally unbiased analysis to the warts in the communist system. The cost of attending Hollander's lecture is \$30.

2. **The Canadian Conservative Centre (CCC)**, Suite 2012, Board of Trade Tower, 1177 W Hastings St., Vancouver V6E 2K3 Ph: 687-3114

The CCC is the brainchild of William Campbell, former membership coordinator for the Fraser Institute. The Centre will focus on non-economic issues such as defence. They sponsored

the recent visit to Vancouver of retired US Lt. Gen Daniel Graham, who is thought to have persuaded President Reagan of the merits of a new defence strategy now commonly labelled 'Star Wars'. The Centre has a \$7.50 publication about potential benefits to Canada from Star Wars.

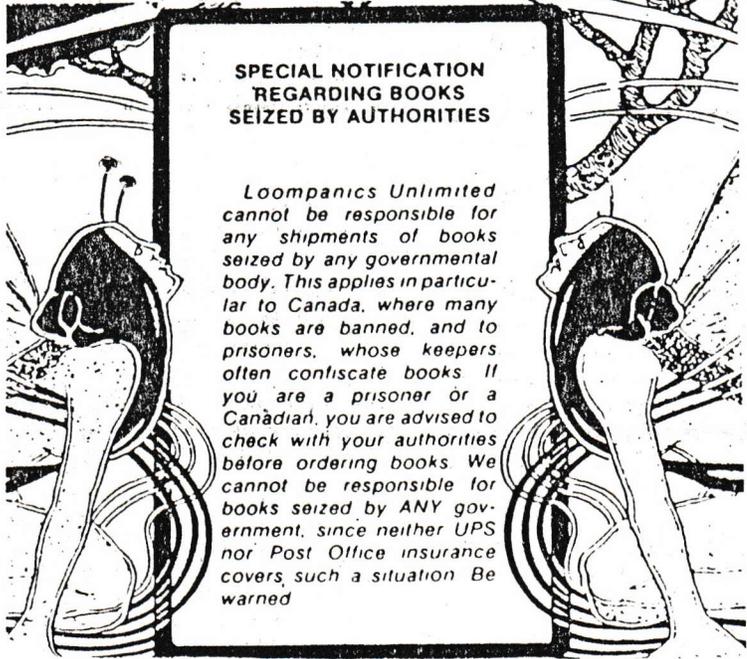
In the Libertarian Party of Canada's Statement of Principles, one of the legitimate functions of government is to provide protection from foreign invaders. If Star Wars can provide better protection at a better price it is indeed worthy of our support. At the very least as a purely defensive weapon system, Star Wars appears preferable to Mutually Assured Destruction. If however Star Wars is only another scheme to get tax-dollar financed subsidies for high-tech parasites then we should be wary. Let's hope the Canadian Conservative Centre makes this distinction.

3. **Citizens for Foreign Aid Reform (C-FAR)**, P.O. Box 332, Rexdale, Ontario M9W 5L3.

C-FAR is a research and publishing organization based in Toronto. They publish a two page newsletter every other week and are interested in reducing Canada's government-to-government foreign aid. This is a conservative organization and libertarians should be wary of their anti-immigration ideas and desires to keep Canada's culture pure. C-FAR also publishes a quarterly 'Population and Immigration Report' and a quarterly 'Canadian Association for Free Expression Report' This last newsletter is highly recommended for those interested in discovering the extent of government censorship. C-FAR has also released more than ten booklets in their Canadian Issue Series. Authors include Les Bewley, Doug Collins and C-FAR organizer Paul Fromm. Cost of a subscription to C-FAR is \$20 per year.

# Letter of the Month

The following letter to the editor from Paul Geddes was prominently displayed on the Letter Page of The Sun on June 29, 1985.



**SPECIAL NOTIFICATION  
REGARDING BOOKS  
SEIZED BY AUTHORITIES**

*Loompanics Unlimited cannot be responsible for any shipments of books seized by any governmental body. This applies in particular to Canada, where many books are banned, and to prisoners, whose keepers often confiscate books. If you are a prisoner or a Canadian, you are advised to check with your authorities before ordering books. We cannot be responsible for books seized by ANY government, since neither UPS nor Post Office insurance covers such a situation. Be warned.*

## Is it dangerous knowledge?

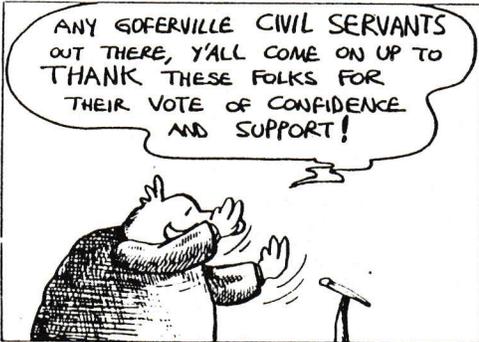
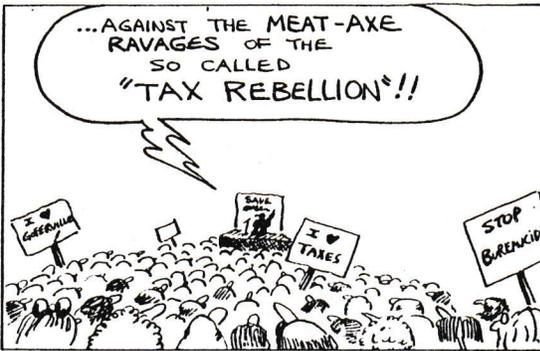
Are we still the "true north strong and free"? I have just received an updated catalogue from a mail order book service in the U.S. The service has had so much trouble getting books past our Canadian border guards that it has been forced to insert the following warning in its catalogue (my emphasis):

"[We] cannot be responsible for any shipments of books seized by any governmental body. *This applies in particular to Canada,* where many books are banned, and

to prisoners, whose keepers often confiscate books. If you are a prisoner or a Canadian, you are advised to check with your authorities before ordering books."

Chilling, isn't it? Speak up Canadians. What are our minders afraid that we'll learn?

**PAUL GEDDES**  
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