



# WEST COAST LIBERTARIAN

The Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association

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## Corrigan Leads LPC Platform Discussion

Sixteen Libertarians attended the LPC platform policy discussion with Party Leader Dennis Corrigan at Columbia College on April 10.

Dennis led the discussion with comments from the current platform: "Less Government for a Better Canada," written largely by former party leader Neil Reynolds and Victor Levis (dated October 25, 1987). Paul Geddes put together the outline for the discussion, and Tunya Audain chaired the 3-hour meeting. The discussion is encapsulated below:

### (1) Government Financial Position.

**Dennis:** Currently 34c of every dollar spent by the federal government goes toward debt servicing. The debt should be denationalized through the sale of assets to pay it off - the government should be required to follow the same rules as individuals in regard to fiscal responsibility. The debt should be phased; 50% should be retired in the first five years in office.

**Discussion:** Whether some or all of the debt should be repudiated generated both favourable and negative comments. Beyond selling assets, Wayne Marsden recommended that future government borrowing be in the form of bonds based on commodities, such as wheat or metals, which provide a much lower interest rate (4-5%) than current money market borrowing.

### (2) Government Institutional Change.

**Dennis:** The LPC cannot continue to be viewed as a fringe party. The Party upholds the current federal election law that requires a written statement from the party leader for a candidate to run for that party. The "Statement of Objectives" recognizes the Constitution but also the need for amendments, particularly entrenchment of property rights and election of the "notwithstanding clause" in Section 33. As a member of the Churchill Society, Dennis is a staunch defender of parliamentary democracy. He also favors a Triple E Senate with about 20 senators per province, elected proportionately by party vote total.

**Discussion:** Whether LPC should support referenda, initiatives, and recalls received mixed debate. Walter Boytinck noted that real estate agents are currently pushing to add property rights to Section 7 of the Constitution. David Crawford suggested that the wording follow the U.S. Fifth Amendment, that people not be deprived of property "without due process of law" and "without just compensation."

### (3) Criminal Justice.

**Dennis:** Libertarians have agreed to disagree on abortion and the death penalty. The justice system must be more victim-oriented and criminals must not only help pay for their incarceration but also help

repay the cost of their crimes. The Food and Drug Act, except for requiring proper labeling, and the Narcotics Act must be repealed.

**Discussion:** More involvement of the victims in sentencing was advocated, for example, requiring judges to impose the toughest sentence, and then allowing the victim or victim's family the decision of mercifully reducing it. Jack Boulogne emphasized the need to get away from social manipulation of the legal system by making punishment and restitution paramount. Bill Tomlinson proposed that nonviolent crimes not require incarceration, but the criminal should work to provide restitution.

### (4) Immigration.

**Discussion:** Bill Tomlinson wondered whether a wave of immigrants would inundate us politically: "Those most likely to come are not Libertarians by nature." Lewis Dahlby suggested that a libertarian zone with free trade, open immigration, and strictly private property be established immediately. Walter Boytinck proposed that all new immigrants put up a performance bond and sign a statement not to go on welfare for five years.

Continued on page 3.....

# Editorial

This is an exciting year for libertarians, both in bad ways and good ways. Let's look at some of the bad news first. There is the matter of Bill C-79, which (unbelievably) seeks to limit independent support of political parties or individual candidates by businesses or individuals, a blatant violation of the Charter of Rights. Then there is Bill C-54, an unbelievably regressive anti-pornography piece of legislation, which has even gotten librarians politically excited. Then there is Bill C-72, another fine piece of anti-liberty legislation. It has to do with compulsory bilingualism, the True North Strong Et Libre. It is probably not true that politicians and bureaucrats spend every waking moment creating brush-fires just so that libertarians can be kept busy trying to put them out, but it sure seems that way.

Besides these federal matters, there are also the Provincial Commissions. The Education Commission has wound up its hearings and is busy digesting the results. Currently, the Justice Commission is just beginning to deal with some very important issues.

All these activities require a response, and I am pleased that there is usually at least one libertarian who feels it his or her duty to take on the establishment on its own turf in these matters.

As important as it is for us to respond or react to these developments it is equally important to initiate, to go on the offensive. We libertarians want to do more than plug holes in leaking dikes; we want to create a brave new world, in which inalienable rights of individuals are taken for granted. The upcoming GVLA elections offer an excellent opportunity for more libertarians to become activists, to become doers instead of grumblers. It would be so nice if each position (one president, two vice-presidents, a treasurer, a secretary, a bulletin editor) had at least two candidates. The flickering candle of liberty is growing in brightness, but if we want a torch to set the world on fire, then we must have the active participation of as many GVLA members as possible. For freedom to falter, it only requires good men and women to take an easy-going laid-back attitude.

So, in a crucial year, with a federal election looming, it is our obligation to not merely attend meetings, but to actively participate in them, not merely to offer criticisms and clever ideas, but also to dig deeply into the old wallet. Not merely to read the West Coast Libertarian but to write something for it. Not merely to attend the June mini-

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The Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association is a local association of the Libertarian Party of Canada and the B.C. Libertarian Party. The GVLA advocates individual freedom and self-responsibility, a free market, and drastically reduced government power. Our fundamental principles forbid the initiation of force, fraud, or coercion against any person or group.

Voting membership in the GVLA or LPC requires signing our statement of principles.

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#### (5) International Trade, Defense, and Foreign Relations.

**Dennis:** The LPC supports the current bilateral initiative even though it has its limitations. It should be extended to third world countries, where it would serve also as a form of economic aid. Some restrictions are needed in the area of selling defense technologies to possible enemies.

**Discussion:** There was general but no unanimous agreement that remaining in NATO is in Canada's interest but that no troops should be deployed abroad. Dietmar Hartl suggested that the everyman militia is the only answer to defense in the present nuclear age.

#### (6) Government Spending and Taxation.

**Dennis:** Taxes are the Number One issue that the LPC will publicize during the next federal election. During the 1984 election, the LPC proposed an alternative budget one-third the level of the government's. The LPC budget of \$35 billion included \$11 billion for old age assistance, \$6 billion for defense, \$4 billion for UIC, and \$2 billion for CPP. To pay for all of this the LPC proposed raising revenue through a flat rate 10% income tax (not withheld at source) and abolishing some 80 other taxes. Also, there would be a moratorium on throwing people into jail for tax evasion.

**Discussion:** Several people recommended abolishing the income tax and replacing it with a sales tax and/or various methods of opting out or voluntary taxation.

Despite the fact that the platform of the LPC is the prerogative of the leader, Dennis gave the impression during the discussion that he was there to absorb the ideas of other party members. A new platform is being drafted, and submission should be sent to party headquarters by early July if the platform is to be ready for an expected fall election.

Also contributing to the discussion were Patrick Brauckmann, Richard Dowswell, Mark Lane, Sandra Lindstrom, Mary Anne Nylén, Albert Ritchie and Elaine Tomlinson

Editorial continued.....

convention, but to run for office. If we don't get off our duffs, then the Conservative Progressives will inherit the spoils of the next election, or one of the other socialist parties (God forbid!)

**Deadline for next newsletter:  
June 20.**

## Election '88. Current Issues

### 1. Lower Taxes

Under Conservative, Liberal and N.D.P. governments, "tax reform" inevitably results in higher total tax collections by those governments, witness their ever-increasing total governmental budgets.

Libertarians do not support that form of tax reform, but instead favour TAX ABOLITION. This must, of course, be matched by a corresponding reduction in government expenditures. Consequently, Libertarians advocate that:

a) Any citizen who renounces in writing for all time Old Age Pensions, Canada Pension Plan benefits and baby bonus cheques shall be exempt from income tax forever.

b) Any deficit shall be financed exclusively by the sale of federal government assets across Canada, e.g. office buildings, crown corporations, etc.

### 2. Less Government

Unfortunately, the federal government has expanded its operations and spending far beyond the original constitutional plan. No matter what the subject, there is some group who wants government to regulate or subsidize it. And there are always those in Parliament eager to take over more power and control. But it is not possible to get something for nothing. The government produces nothing and so can hand out favours to some people only by taking the earnings and property of others first.

The government shall not grant any subsidies whatsoever to any business, agricultural operation or other form of employment.

Privatization shall be encouraged whenever possible and as soon as conveniently possible, following the fine example set by Margaret Thatcher in England.

### 3. Immigration

Libertarians support the following just and equitable position on immigration: Open immigration to anyone who agrees in writing not to accept welfare, unemployment insurance payments or any other governmental handouts for five years, and upon entry as an immigrant makes a \$5,000 good faith cash deposit with the immigration authori-

ties to be refunded without interest at the end of five years.

### 4. Abortion

Most Libertarian candidates are opposed to abortion. We are particularly opposed to all tax funding for abortions. It is harsh to force someone who believes that abortion is murder to pay for another person's abortion.

Libertarians support the voluntary establishment of private homes for expectant mothers where they also have the option to consider adoption.

Libertarians want as little government and as much individual freedom as possible. Libertarians place liberty at the core of all values.

It follows that Libertarians are opposed to governmental interference or laws dealing with abortion. Most Libertarians for personal reasons vigorously oppose abortion, and will do everything in their power to persuade, in a non-violent way, persons considering an abortion to abstain from doing so. Furthermore, many Libertarians will give voluntary and generous financial support to expectant mothers.

### 5. Summary of Libertarian Philosophy

A Libertarian is one who believes in personal and economic liberty, in the right of all individuals to choose their own way of life, provided that the rights of others are respected.

Libertarians will work for government to adopt these same principles.

**Walter J. Boytinck**  
**Walter Boytinck is a Vancouver lawyer and long-time Libertarian**

# Libertarian Party of Canada

## 1988 Platform

The central belief of the Libertarian Party is that government power needs to be limited and constrained so that citizens can live and grow in a peaceful, prosperous, tolerant, civilized society. For the next federal election, we have chosen the following major issues to illustrate the libertarian perspective.

### TAX REFORM

The average Canadian family now pays an estimated 50% of their income to support the different levels of Canadian government. This burden is much too high. The methods of taxation are also so cumbersome and complex that average Canadians no longer have the adequate means to determine whether they are getting their money's worth for the taxes they pay. We believe taxation should be simple, straightforward, and cause the minimum economic distortion.

#### We propose:

**1. End all hidden and indirect taxes** (sales, excise and corporate taxes). It doesn't matter if we pay with our right or left hands; it is ultimately the consumer that pays all the taxes. Let's make the government ask consumers directly for the tax payments they want.

**2. We propose a flat rate 20% income tax** on ALL incomes above \$10,000. A flat rate will stop the disruptive efforts of Canadians to shift income to less productive lines of work just to reduce tax burdens. This form of taxation is simple enough to fit on a post card and will reduce the TOTAL tax burden on Canadians by 50%.

**3. End mandatory withholding of income tax at source.** In order for Canadians to make an informed decision about the relative merits of their tax burden, they should have the option of writing a cheque for their complete tax bill.

### DOWNSIZING GOVERNMENT

Government interference in so many aspects of the economy has prevented Canadians from achieving their full economic potential. **We propose:**

**1. End ALL government subsidies to businesses.** Business often talks about free enterprise. Let's give them the real thing and force them to become self-

reliant and competitive.

**2. Privatization of government crown corporations.** There are many good people trapped in Air Canada, CN, CBC, Petro-Canada and the Post Office that have a genuine contribution to make to society if only they were given the incentives to be productive. Also, asset sales can reduce the high government debt. Any entity faced with interest payments of close to 20% of spending (and rising) should consider the sale of unproducing assets.

**3. Deregulation.** Government laws should not be used to create special privileges for special producers. All Canadians should have equal opportunities to compete in the market and government laws should not prevent people with new ideas from entering the market.

**4. Opting out of government programs.** There should be tax deductions (the only exception to be the flat rate) for Canadians who sign binding contracts not to use certain government services. This should especially apply to unemployment insurance and government pension plans. The federal law should also be changed to allow citizens to opt out of provincial health plans.

**5. End universality.** Most government spending aids the middle class that doesn't need it.

### GENUINE FREE TRADE

Although we support Mulroney's hesitant movement towards freer trade with the US, this does not go nearly far enough for us. Canadians should be allowed to transact with whomever they choose.

#### We propose:

**1. No exemptions from the Canada-US free trade agreement.** Canadians will benefit greatly from free trade in agricultural goods. The breweries should not be allowed to continue their protectionist racket.

**2. Multilateral free trade.** Bilateral free trade is progress, but there are many more gains to be made by trading freely with whomever offers the best deal.

### END CENSORSHIP

The role of government is to protect us and our property from assault and theft. Government should not be used to prevent us from making our own choices in life which do not violate other people's rights. Persuasion, not the government boot, is the proper tool to prevent others from reading, writing or watching unsavory material. **We propose:**

**1. Defeat of the pornography bill C-54.** The government should have no role in deciding what free people are permitted to watch or read.

**2. Defeat of the tobacco advertising bill C-51.** The government should have no role in deciding what is permissible speech. The government should not be permitted to tell the nation's media what they are allowed to advertise.

*Paul Geddes*

*Paul Geddes current Vice President of the G.V.L.A. is a lecturer in economics at Columbia College in Burnaby.*




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## The Modern Little Red Hen

Once upon a time, there was a little red hen who scratched about the barnyard until she uncovered some grains of wheat. She called her neighbors and said, "If we plant this wheat, we shall have bread to eat. Who will help me plant it?"

"Not I," said the cow.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Not I," said the pig.

"Not I," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen. And she did. The wheat grew tall and ripened into golden grain.

"Who will help me reap my wheat?" asked the little red hen.

"Not I," said the duck.

"Out of my classification," said the pig.

"I'd lose my seniority," said the cow.

"I'd lose my unemployment compensation," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen, and she did.

At last it came time to bake the bread,

"Who will help me bake the bread?" asked the little red hen.

"That would be overtime for me," said the cow.

"I'd lose my welfare benefits," said the duck.

"I'm a dropout and never learned how," said the pig.

"If I'm to be the only helper, that's discrimination," said the goose.

"Then I will," said the little red hen.

She baked five loaves and held them up for her neighbours to see.

They all wanted some and, in fact, demanded a share. But the little red hen said, "No, I can eat the five loaves myself."

"Excess profit!" cried the cow.

"Capitalist leech!" screamed the duck.

"I demand equal rights!" yelled the goose.

And the pig just grunted. And they painted "unfair" picket signs and marched round and round the little red hen, shouting obscenities.

When the government agent came, he said to the little red hen, "You must not be greedy."

"But I earned the bread," said the little red hen.

"Exactly," said the agent. "That is the wonderful free enterprise system. Anyone in the barnyard can earn as much as he wants. But under our modern government regulations, the productive workers must divide their product with the idle."

And they lived happily ever after, including the little red hen, who smiled and clucked, "I am grateful. I am grateful,"

But her neighbours wondered why she never again baked any more bread.

*Material originally prepared by  
Pennwalt Corporation  
Contributed by Bill Tomlinson  
President of the B.C. Libertarian*

## The Libertarian Bookshelf

There are many books that are well worth reading for libertarians even though they are not libertarian books per se. A good example of such a book is one that Bill Tomlinson lent me: "How to Start Your Own School" by Robert Love (Green Hill 1973).

It is the true story of Wichita Collegiate school, a private non-denominational school, and one that libertarians would like to see more of. Even though the school's primary purpose is a sound education at a reasonable cost, and it is run on a non-profit basis, it is also run in a very business-like manner. The author is a firm believer in free market principles and in accountability at all levels, with the consumer as king. At the same time its reputation as a top-notch educational institution keeps the school in the black.

It's a very readable volume, skinny and yet packed with useful information, the style honest and straightforward. It is also inspiring because it shows that even in a hostile climate, and under conditions of unfair competition (how would you like to make a living selling hamburgers when just down the block they are giving them away for free?), a well managed school can not only keep its head above water but prosper as well. Highly recommended!

I also managed to read another very worthwhile book recently by the famous Doug Casey, author of the 1979 best-selling Crisis Investing. Casey was a speaker at our Supper Club a few weeks ago where I thoroughly enjoyed his free-wheeling, easy-going style. This style is very misleading because he is actually extremely well-read and gives the impression of knowing what he is talking about. The book I read, Strategic Investing (PocketBooks 1982), is a goldmine of many clever ideas and is of use not only to the professional investor, but is also intended for the person who has only \$500 at his or her disposal.

There are two kinds of libertarians in the world, the Tom Payne altruistic type who strives mightily for a freer world, and the Demosthenes type, who, when the king asked him what he wanted as reward for being such a competent philosopher, told the king to get out of his sunlight. Casey is definitely more the Demosthenes type. His advice for us in this complicated, unpredictable world is to look after ourselves first, to take advantage of crisis when it comes (without rejoicing in it!) and to survive. I believe the world benefits from both kinds of libertarians, and I heartily recommend this excellent book.

A third book I enjoyed a great deal is the

Fraser Institute's Privatization: Tactics and Techniques, edited by Michael Walker. There are several noted contributors, among which the name Madsen Pirie is probably the most familiar to the reader. What I found most interesting in this medium-sized volume is the degree to which privatization is becoming a science. This encourages one to believe that everything governmental is in principle privatizable. What more do libertarians want? There are good, sound politically workable ways to defeat the natural enemies of privatization, mainly rabid left-wingers, unions and bureaucrats, either by giving them offers they cannot refuse, or by doing end-runs around them. The super-cautious Brian has finally come around to putting Aid Canada on the block, and the freedom lovers can only say: Hurrah!

Even though I am short of space I want to recommend some videos as well. Sometimes a Great Notion, Wall Street and Down-and-out in Beverley Hills. Although these movies may not be as lofty and stirring as reading the works of Ayn Rand, they convey very much the same kind of message. Definitely three or four star movies.

*Jack Boulogne.*

## GVLA Elections

Elections for the GVLA executive will take place at our annual general meeting during the upcoming miniconventions on June 11.

This is your chance to play an active role in our group activities and to influence the GVLA with new ideas.

We will be voting for the positions of president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, membership vice president, and newsletter editor. And we hope there will be lots of competition for each position.

Please remember.. to be eligible to run for an executive position or to be a voting member of the GVLA, your membership must be current and you must have signed our statement of principles.

In an effort to expand interest in our group, we are seeking co-ordinators for: supper club, heavy duty club, bookstore, pamphlets and advertising, speaker bureau, opinion/editorials, media events, fund raising or any other activities that you can suggest. We hope you will offer to spend some time with use to keep the GVLA active.

Please contact Mary Anne Nylan (GVLA Secretary) at 736-2459 to have your name added to the ballot.

## JUDGE BACKS CENSUS REFUSAL

### Canadian Press

**PONOKA, Alta.** - A provincial court judge has upheld a Ponoka service station manager's right to refuse to fill out his census form.

Judge J.A. Murray said Gary Gauvreau had a lawful excuse to refuse to fill out the census form because some of the questions weren't relevant to population.

Gauvreau's lawyer said three questions dealing with whether a person owns or rents a home, who pays the rent or mortgage, and relationships in the home weren't valid.

## GVLA Supper Club

- Date:** Friday, May 20, 1988
- Cash Bar:** 5:30 p.m.
- Dinner:** 6:30 p.m.
- Place:** Heidelberg Restaurant  
1636 Robson Street (Upstairs)
- Menu:** Soup, Salad, Rinds Roulade (Beef Roll), Potatoes, Vegetables, Coffee or Tea, Dessert
- Cost:** Only \$12.00, or \$2.00 after dinner to hear the speaker.
- Programme:** Our guest speaker is Dr. Bruce Alexander, Dep't of Psychology, Simon Fraser University, who will speak on "Addiction and Why the War on Drugs Won't Work". Dr. Alexander specializes in addiction research and the history of psychology. He is a member of The Concerned Citizens Drug Study and Education Society, Burnaby, and serves on the advisory board for Arnold Trebach's Drug Policy Foundation of Washington, D.C. He was instrumental in helping the B.C. Civil Liberties Association get the 1979 B.C. Heroin Treatment Act withdrawn.

If you plan to attend it would be very much appreciated if you would call either Paul (438-6127), Bill (980-7370), or Mary Anne (736-2459) before Tuesday May 17th, 1988.

**REASON** magazine is now available on the newstand in Vancouver at the European News, 1136 Robson St.

**Price is C\$3.95.**

**If more people ask for it, the proprietor is willing to order in more copies.**

# Liberty Snippets

The GVLA welcomes the following new members, who joined in February and March 1988: Patrick Brauckmann, Donnie Chisholm, Roy Gawlick, Sandy Sucloy, Steve Vanagus, and Gene Wirchenko.

## Private Enterprise Conservation

During its first 25 years (1963-1988), The Nature Conservancy of Canada (794A Broadview Ave., Toronto, Ontario M4K 2P7) has raised nearly \$9 million for land acquisition and protection projects. The private, nonprofit, land-conservation organization is dedicated to preserving significant natural areas across Canada. Currently, the Conservancy protects 75,350 acres (30,050 hectares). The Conservancy recently added Brackman Island, a 12 acre uninhabited Gulf Island near Saanich Peninsula to 17 completed projects in British Columbia.

## The Market for Charity

One of the most cherished notions about Canada is that we care for each other. This is reflected in the extent of social welfare programmes and the relatively large amount of public charity. By comparison, many Canadians believe our American neighbours are more independently minded and are less likely to have concern for their neighbours. Certainly in the currently raging debate about free trade, this characteristic about our two societies has often been mentioned. The facts of the matter are somewhat different than the perception, however.

First of all, it may be true that we spend more money through the government sector to support social services and other people-oriented programmes. However, this is not a voluntary activity for Canadians since the payment of taxes which support the programmes is not voluntary. When we look at those areas of voluntary support for community and service activities, the average American looks much better than the average Canadian. For example, the average American donates to charitable activities twice as much in proportion to his or her income, than the average Canadian. This according to the Canadian Centre for Philanthropy.

Meanwhile, a study in the United States, comparing the community involvement activities of Canadians and Americans has determined that Canadians are less inclined to volunteer than their American counterparts. Now, from this comparison we should not infer that Canadians are less caring than Americans, to invert the popular myth. What we should learn is that perhaps those comparisons between American and Canadians don't tell us anything about how charitable or community-minded we are. What they may tell us is that Americans and Canadians have a different propensity to have governments do things. Maybe the same level of charity is accomplished in both countries but in Canada more of it is done by government. --Michael Walker, Fraser Forum, February 1988

## From the Mailbag

It appears that I was hasty in my assessment of the Libertarian position on abortion. This confusion resulted from a phrase in the pamphlet "Libertarianism: Challenging the reign of political power". In all candor passing up membership based on one anomaly was questionable. Your letter and helpful information rendered my plight academic.

I'd like to become a full member. Your party takes the high road of many issues, inviting the wrath and invective of those many who depend on the state's loot and interference for their livelihood and status. Perhaps I can help other pro-life libertarians in keeping this high road... Donnie Chisholm, Quesnel, March 25, 1988

## Correction

Mr. Lonnie Neufeld, who contributed the article on "Zoning Choices" in the preceding newsletter, had his name misspelled by us. Please accept our apologies, Lonnie.

## Libertarian Bookstore

In keeping with the tenet of decentralization, the Libertarian Bookstore is run independently by several members. A partial list of current stock is followed by the person to contact if you would like to obtain a copy:

**The Freeman**, \$0.50 per issue  
(Paul Geddes, 438-6127)

**The Law**, by Bastiat, \$2.00  
(Paul Geddes)

**Defending the Undefendable**, by Walter Block, \$15.00 (Paul Geddes)

**The American Libertarian**, \$0.25 per issue (Paul Geddes)

**The Mainspring of Human Progress**, by Henry Grady Weaver, \$1.00 (Kurt Pokrandt, 926-0396)

## FEE Seminar

The Foundation for Economic Education held their annual northwest seminar at Alderbrook, north of Olympia, Washington. Among the eighty in attendance included Tunya Audain, Patrick Brauckmann, David Crawford, Paul Geddes and Mike Sporer from the GVLA. The seminar's special topic was "Separating State and Education." Under fire were compulsory schooling, government mandated curriculums and the lack of market incentives in the education industry. The distinction was made between education (acknowledgement of the necessity of never-ending self-improvement) and schooling. FEE has chosen the role of spreading the 'freedom philosophy'. They publish the excellent FREEMAN (US\$10 per year) and will not get involved in any particular campaign. At Alderbrook, some of the attendees did start a working group to begin more political activity to reduce the state's role in education. Tunya Audain will be coordinating this committee composed of members from BC, Washington and Oregon. FEE would like to hold their next northwest seminar in BC if the proper facilities can be arranged. If anyone wants to help with this project, contact Patrick 430-0145. To get a subscription to the FREEMAN, write FEE, Irvington-On-Hudson, New York 10533.

## Election Committee Report

The GVLA federal election committee has met twice since the last newsletter. An election budget has tentatively been set at \$20,000 to be used throughout BC. This works out to about a \$40 per capita contribution from everyone on our mailing list. This budget covers the cost of opening a temporary campaign office, purchasing a couple of large ads in major newspapers as well as printing many flyers for direct distribution. We decided that if only one libertarian was contesting the nomination for a

riding as of June 1st, we would acclaim them at our June mini convention. (See enclosed brochure). We are still accepting nominations and if you would like to run, phone Bill 980-7370 before June 1st. Contested nominations will require a meeting of the GVLA residents of the specific riding.

### **Libertarian Candidates(thus far)**

Burnaby (Mark Lane)

Capilano (Bill Tomlinson)

Fraser Valley West (Wayne Marsden)

Mission-Coquitlam (Harry Bull)

North Vancouver (Kurt Pokrandt)

Port Moody-Coquitlam (Lewis Dahlby)

Surrey North (Jack Boulogne)

Surrey-White Rock (Dietmar Hartl)

Vancouver East (Heinz Holzschuher)

Vancouver Quadra (Walter Boytinck)

Vancouver South (John Clarke)

Contested ridings:

Vancouver Centre (Tunya Audain, Duane Pye)

New Westminster-Burnaby (Bill Buckler, Paul Geddes)

(19 ridings are still unspoken for!!!)

### **HEAVY DUTY DEFENSE**

The Heavy Duty Philosophy meeting of February 28 heard Gord Addison, president of the SFU Ayn Rand Club present the case for a stronger national defense. Addison feels that Canada should remain in NATO and NORAD and help with military aid when people in a foreign nation are threatened with totalitarianism. He defended the invasion of Grenada, and aid to both Afghan and Contra rebels as necessary to get rid of a larger evil. The meeting did not reach a consensus on a libertarian defense policy. Some felt that only individuals, not countries, required defense. Some felt that even defense should be a privatized. It was agreed that this topic required more attention at a future club meeting when broken into smaller components.

### **TAX PROTEST DAY**

May 2nd was the third annual Vancouver Tax Protest Day (6th National commemoration). We passed out 3000 copies of Bill Tomlinson's work of literary art, "Unexpurgated extracts from an Unnamed Cabinet Minister's Diary". We were interviewed by CKNW (who wanted to know which cabinet minister leaked his diary) and BCIT TV. It was a cold and miserable day, but thanks to Elaine Tomlinson's hot coffee and sandwiches, we managed to have our fun. Protesters included David Crawford, Lewis Dahlby, Paul Geddes and Bill Tomlinson. We discovered that the warm lobby of the Revenue Canada building was

"private property" and we were warned not to hold the door open for customers. Meanwhile Jack Boulogne and Sandra Lindstrom played hide-and-seek with security out at the Surrey Tax Office. They managed to distribute a few hundred brochures as well.

### **PETER BREGGIN ADDRESSES WASHINGTON LIBERTARIANS**

Washington state libertarians held their annual convention on Saturday, April 30. They amended their already near perfect platform (a comprehensive list of libertarian positions on topics A through Z condensed into four pages) and elected new officers. Karen Allard was re-elected as State Party Chairman (she will be speaking at our June Mini-convention). After the business meeting and dinner, psychologist Peter Breggin, author of *THE PSYCHOLOGY OF FREEDOM* addressed the topic of "Children's Rights". Breggin had no definite answers but felt that libertarians will never be persuasive until they can assuage fears about care of the truly helpless in a libertarian future. Children come into awareness in a position of intense need and fear. The family is not a perfect, happy institution for many people. At what point can libertarians defend the use of force to protect children from their families while still respecting the rights of individuals to choose peaceful, alternative life-styles? The evening ended with intense discussions in every corner.

### **NEWS RELEASES**

The GVLA issued two news releases this month. We thought they were good, but they didn't generate much media attention. In one, we objected to the government's monopoly on gambling which prevented the Communist Party's PACIFIC TRIBUNE from continuing their private lottery. We also pointed out the contradiction of a Communist Party engaging in competitive, capitalistic gambling. This release netted Dennis Corrigan a 10-second interview on the CBC-TV local evening news. The second release summarized Walter Boytinck's idea that new immigrants should be granted work permits if they sign a bond agreeing not to accept government money. This is topical because over fifty refugee claimants arrived at the Vancouver airport in April. They won't get their refugee hearing until November and they can't earn any income because they are forbidden to work. However, if they have no resources, they will be allowed to collect welfare. Walter's

work permit for bond exchange seemed like a win-win solution to us.

### **PAT BURNS UPDATE**

Has anyone been listening to Pat Burns lately? Walter Boytinck sent him a copy of his libertarian platform (see elsewhere in this newsletter) which Burns read verbatim over the air. In the following week there were many conversations in which the libertarian name was uttered. Burns thought that the our immigration plank was a big improvement on what he understood us to believe before. He even indicated that he was changing his mind and now believed that the only solution was to legalize drugs. He also defended us from the charge that we were a front for the homosexuals. However, he still feels that our ideas are impractical. How can he say this when he has to listen to the looney ideas of the so-called regular politicians all day?

### **DENNIS CORRIGAN'S TRIP A SUCCESS**

Dennis felt he had a great weekend in Vancouver. Our Sunday policy session is covered elsewhere in this issue. That evening, close to forty gathered for wine and cheese at Jack and Sandra's and bent Dennis' ear about what he should be doing. On Monday, Dennis appeared on the Rafe Mair and Laurier LaPierre shows. Mair challenged Dennis with some difficult questions and the callers had the board lit up when Dennis had to leave. Mair invited Dennis back, the next time he's in Vancouver. LaPierre treated Dennis with more disdain choosing instead just to pass the time. If you want to hear or see Dennis' performances, phone Bill 980-7370. Monday night we had a turnout of around seventy with many new faces at our public meeting. Special thanks to Jim Colbert for helping us with the excellent \$11,284.61 advertisement. Dennis' speech was strong and a lively question period ensued in which many got a chance to get their opinion aired.

### **LIBERTARIANISM 101 SEMINARS**

After our first two successes, we're going to go for three groups this time. Mary Anne will continue her Kitsilano meetings, every Wednesday night, 7 p.m. for six weeks starting May 18. (Phone 736-2459). Kurt starts his north shore group, Monday May 16 (phone 926-0396) and Jack starts a Surrey group on Wednesday May 18 (phone 594-9734). The total cost is \$5 for a copy of Bergland's LIBERTARIANISM IN ONE LESSON (or \$2 for the newsprint version).

## COMPASSION IS NOT A MORAL VIRTUE (OR A MORAL VICE)

If there is one idea that bedevils Canadian political life, as well as that of many other industrialized democracies, it is the belief that compassion is a moral virtue. It is not.

At first this statement may occasion surprise or disbelief, or even moral revulsion. After all, feeling sorry for one's fellow human being seems fine and noble, and certainly morally praiseworthy. Isn't charity a good thing, and how can one criticize kindness?

The answer to these difficulties lies in defining one's terminology carefully, and here I follow the guide provided by the moral philosopher Bernard Gert, author of "The Moral Rules", unfortunately currently out of print.

Gert defines a moral virtue as the habit of following the moral rules, or ideals. Morality is all those things all human beings want all other human beings to possess. Thus, fairness, dependability, truthfulness, trustworthiness, honesty are virtues, that is characteristics we want others to have, while courage and temperance, for example, might be attributes we want for ourselves. Gert calls the later "personal virtues", as distinct from moral virtues. Moral virtues are fairly dull, unexciting personal qualities, but they are the stuff of civilized existence. Without trust and a willingness to avoid doing harm to others, life would be, in the familiar words by Thomas Hobbes, "nasty, brutish and short".

What is compassion? It is the capacity to feel the suffering of others. It is pain experienced because of another person's pain. Sometimes it can cause us to help others, and thus it encourages acts of kindness, but it need not do so. Compassion may also cause us to be miserable without helping others. It may drive one to drink or depression and actually prevent us from doing anything useful for ourselves and others. Essentially compassion is a negative emotion. The classical philosopher Spinoza condemned pity for that reason.

Perhaps a more down-to-earth way of understanding why compassion (and its milder cousin, sympathy) is not a moral virtue is to ask yourself whether you would rather be pitied or envied. Naturally, most people would prefer to inspire envy, rather than pity.

Left-wing people, generally speaking, have a mania for compassion. They see any action motivated by compassion as selfless, noble, and morally praiseworthy. They work hard for a society in which compassion

is a dominant theme. They are seriously in error over this. Compassion is an emotion; there is no intrinsic virtue in feeling pangs of pity for others. It is much better to work for a society in which no one arouses our pity, but in which each person can have pride and dignity, and practice self-reliance.

There is something fundamentally arrogant about dividing the world into winners and losers, a society of helpers and helpees, where the winners wallow in compassion while the losers wallow in misery. Let no one have to wallow at all! A society where compassion is the dominant theme is far inferior to one where self-respect is supreme.

Ayn Rand, the famous American novelist and philosopher, is to be credited for pointing out the fallacy in a compassion-based social philosophy. In my opinion, she overdid it, though, and made compassion to be a vice. Although feeling sorry for others is not virtuous, it is not vicious either. Friedrich Nietzsche made a similar error in his writing when he attacked "Christian" virtues in a vigorous manner. There are always people in need, and there is nothing wrong with helping others when they need it, especially when they ask for it.

Canada has at present the dubious benefit of having three major socialist parties. The libertarians are the only effective opposition to this compassion-driven, deficit-ridden, feather-bedding system of institutionalised charity. The Winners of this society, the Helpers, are not only busy helping the Losers, the Helpees, but in the process of helping others are in the meantime helping themselves rather generously at public expense. The politicians and the bureaucrats are driving the limousines, while the welfare cases eke out a minimal existence. **DOING WELL BY DOING GOOD:** That seems to be a guiding slogan of Canadian public policy.

One dramatic example of the inequity of the Helper/Helpee society is our Native population. These are the most helped and pitied people in Canadian society. They are also the most miserable. Consider the unbelievable but true statistic: fully HALF of teen-age suicides are Native youngsters! Was this horror produced by ruthless exploitation? On the contrary, although there is no doubt that Native land claims have been violated, this is not the primary cause of their unhappiness. The basic source of their failure to adapt to modern times is the compassion-driven political system that divides society

into winners and losers, in which the winners are allowed to indulge in smug feelings of superiority that manifest themselves as the virtuous glow of compassion, while the losers hopelessly struggle to become winners, but somehow always fail.

I have stated the problem, but what is the solution? Basically it consists of rejecting misguided sentimentalism and taking moral philosophy more seriously. Good intentions are not good enough. We must restructure society along rational (Ayn Rand called them "objective") principles. State-based charity is not charity at all but a mad-house of people fighting, quite unjustly, for special privileges.

The slogan of American revolutionaries was: "Equal rights for all, and special privileges for none!" Modern American society is a hollow mockery of that noble goal, and Canadian society seems even worse. We have traded a just society of equal opportunity for one in which pity drives us, and as a result of this unthinking sentimentality we have created a society where compassion is even more appropriate. More misguided dogoodism, accompanied by a generous dose of selfish opportunism by ambitious individuals, has created a vicious cycle that no modern "democratic" society has been able to unwind.

The long-term cure lies in rejecting compassionate collectivism. Let charity begin and end at home! Let us totally eliminate Robin Hoodism and vicarious generosity. After all, generosity at another person's expense is not generosity at all, but robbery. "Thou shalt not steal" must override our charitable impulses. "Moral" means should not be used when other means will do.

In conclusion, it is abundantly clear that the compassionate society is in reality quite cruel. By sacrificing reason to sentiment, we have caused a great deal of harm to our fellow human beings. Let's stop doing it.

*Jack Boulogne*

*Jack Boulogne is President of the GVLA. He is a teacher in Surrey, where he has taught Philosophy and Ethics among other subjects at the senior secondary level.*

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 8            **Board of Directors Meeting** - 1st Sunday of the Month 10.00 a.m.  
Bill Tomlinson's (980-7370)
- May 9            **Introduction to Libertarianism (West Vancouver)** Kurt Pokrandt's (926-0396)  
89 Bonnymuir Dr., West Vancouver. 7.00 p.m.
- May 11          **Introduction to Libertarianism (Kitsilano)** Mary Anne Nylén (736-2459)  
#7 - 1546 Yew St, Vancouver, 7.00 p.m.
- Introduction to Libertarianism (Surrey)** Jack Boulogne's (594-9734)  
13965 64th Ave., Surrey, 7.00 p.m.
- May 20          **Supper Club** (see ad inside)
- May 29          **Heavy Duty Philosophy Club: Reforming O.A.A. & C.P.P.** Paul Geddes' (438-6127)  
#207-6727 Royal Oak Ave, Burnaby. 7.00 p.m.
- June 11         **G.V.L.A. Convention and Annual General Meeting**, Douglas College,  
New Westminster
- June 26         **Heavy Duty Club: Learning Smart Politics.** Mike Sporer
- Aug 7 - 13      **Libertarian International 4th World Conference**, Mbabane, Swaziland
- Mid Aug         **Freedom Caravan Touring Northern B.C.** Phone Bill 980-7370 for particulars

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