



West Coast Libertarian

Newsletter of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association

Volume 16, Issue 5

October, 1996

1996 ISIL Conference at Whistler: A Resounding Success!

The 1996 ISIL Conference at Whistler is history, but the memories won't soon be forgotten. One person compared it to spending six days in Galt's Gulch. And so it was. A full week of listening to fascinating speakers and enjoying the camaraderie of fellow libertarians.

The Conference was a resounding success! Conference organizer Kurt Pokrandt and those who assisted him deserve a hearty congratulations. It was one of the largest libertarian events ever staged in the Pacific Northwest. It attracted enormous media exposure; and it featured many world renowned proponents of liberty.

Media Highlights

The Conference garnered considerable media attention primarily because certain government funded, far left "anti-racism" groups alleged that at least two of the Conference speakers were racists and that overall the Conference was dangerous. "Libertarian gathering sparks concern among anti-racists" was the headline in the *Vancouver Sun*.

The charge that Conference speakers were racists is of course preposterous but in today's times it is not uncommon for left leaning groups to call anyone who believes in less government and more freedom racist. Nevertheless the charge of racism was appreciated, in a perverse way, because it did result in significant media coverage for the Conference.

Several newspapers, including the *Globe and Mail*, both French and English CBC television and radio and BCTV attended and provided coverage of the Conference. As well, Conference organizers and speakers appeared on numerous radio talk shows as well as television news and public affair shows.

Definitely one of the media highlights and perhaps the most far reaching impact was the coverage provided by BCTV. On one August evening, the hundreds of thousands of viewers who regularly watch BCTV's supper hour news saw Conference speaker and Colorado State Senator Charles

Duke eloquently explain the importance of the right of the individual to own guns:

"When people fear government, you have tyranny. Guns [in the hands of individuals] make government fearful of the people; and when government fears the people, you have freedom."

Some of the other media highlights included Marco den Ouden on CKNW's Bill Good show, Senator Charles Duke on CKNW's Philip Till show and both Marco and Kurt Pokrandt for a full hour on a cable television public affairs show.

Conference Highlights

In addition to the media highlights, there were so many memorable Conference highlights. A brief summary of only a few are as follows:

- The first evening which not only featured Canadian Shakespearean actor Bruce Evoy reciting Patrick Henry's famous "Give Me Liberty or Give me Death" speech but also Vancouver's own Walter Block. Bruce's reenactment was riveting, whereas Walter's performance was... well true Blockian (i.e. enjoyable, exhilarating and insightful). Walter spoke on the new system

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Message from the President

The Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association ("GVLA") has trod a fairly steady path over the last few years. Some might say a bit too steady! We have neither shrunk nor grown, but maintained a steady membership. The Dropouts have been replaced by new recruits at a slow but steady rate.

Now this is fine for a social club, but not so great for a movement that hopes to produce lasting changes in our society. After almost 25 years, the Libertarian Party still has not been able to field a candidate in every riding. The Natural Law Party, meanwhile, a group of whackos if ever there was one, has come close. Can there really be more people out there who believe in the possibility of curing society's ills by yoga flying than there are those who believe in liberty? I think not!

There are several reasons for our failure to evolve into a mass movement (or at least a movement of more than a few hundred people) Perhaps the most important is that in many ways, we really are social club. We have never seriously set our sights on developing the movement on expanding our base membership, on proselytizing our message. We seem to get active during elections, and then fall back into the old routines.

For most of us, libertarianism is an intellectual exercise. We're libertarians because we believe in liberty and because, well, . . . because it's fun! We love to argue, to debate, to use the rapier wit of logic to present our case and skewer our enemies. And, well heck yes, we like to be a little self-righteous too about how good we are and about how bad they are!

Unfortunately, that may give us intellectual satisfaction, but it does little to make converts. There is little attempt by libertarians to reach out to people, to point out that liberty benefits everyone.

Another reason for our failure is because we have not been very goal oriented. We are content to continue along our merry well worn path. It's comfortable like an old shoe. To get off the worn path (or out of the rut if you prefer) requires that we do something different. To this end, it is my goal as President of the GVLA to effectively double our membership in the next year. We discussed many ways of doing this at our last GVLA Executive meeting. They ranged from following up on inquiries with personal phone calls to organized writing of letters to the editor to organizing the province on a riding by riding basis. A beefed up WEB site is another method we are employing. Past President Kerry Pearson is in charge of that project and will utilize many of the fine ideas presented by Terry Brock at the ISIL conference.

To put our ideas into practice will not be easy. We need your help. If you want to see the GVLA grow and want to help make it a reality, attend our next GVLA Executive meeting, or contact me via phone (467 8800) or email (marco_den_ouden@mindlink.bc.ca). Not only will you be promoting the cause of liberty, you'll be having fun while you're doing it!

Marco den Ouden

West Coast Libertarian

is the official publication of the Greater Vancouver Libertarian Association ("GVLA"). The GVLA is a local constituency association of the Libertarian Party of Canada ("LPC"), 1 St. John's Road, Suite 301, Toronto, Ontario, M6P 4C7 (telephone 416-763-3688; fax 416-763-5306).

As members of the LPC, we advocate free markets, civil liberties, self-responsibility, and drastically reduced government interference in our lives. Our fundamental principles forbid the initiation of force, fraud or coercion against any person or group and we expect that government accept these principles too.

Voting membership of the GVLA or LPC requires the signing of our Statement of Principles.

As a registered federal political party, contributions to the GVLA or LPC qualify for a tax credit.

GVLA/LPC memberships are \$5 for 5 years. Subscription to the *West Coast Libertarian* is \$20/year anywhere in North America. Membership and subscription inquiries should be directed to:

Bill Tomlinson
922 Cloverly Street
North Vancouver, BC V7L 1N3
Voice: (604) 980-7370

Articles of interest to libertarians are welcomed and encouraged. Please send letters, newspaper clippings, jokes, cartoons, copies of your letters to editors, original articles, notices of upcoming events, etc. to:

Gordon Denusik
#88 - 6700 Rumble Street
Burnaby, BC V5E 4H7
Voice: (604) 525-5886
Email: Gordon_Denusik@bc.sympatico.ca

Submissions must be typed and are encouraged by email or on 3 1/2" IBM PC diskette in plain ASCII format.

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Editor: Gordon Denusik
Contributors: D'arcy Flannery, Paul Geddes,
Marco den Ouden, Kerry Pearson

Editorial Page

The Libertarian Creed

(Paraphrased from Murray N. Rothbard's For a New Liberty)

The libertarian creed rests upon one central axiom: that no person or group of people may aggress against the person or property of anyone else. This is called the "nonaggression axiom." "Aggression" being defined as the initiation of the use or threat of physical violence against the person or property of anyone else. Aggression is therefore synonymous with invasion.

If no person may aggress against another, if, in short, everyone has the absolute right to be "free" from aggression, then this implies that the libertarian stands foursquare for . . . "civil liberties" - the freedom to speak, publish, assemble ... and . . . "laissez-faire capitalism" -unrestricted private property and free exchange.

In current terminology, the libertarian position on civil liberties is considered "leftist" while its position on property and economics would be called "extreme right wing." But there is no inconsistency in being "leftist" on some issues and "rightist" on others. On the contrary, the libertarian position is the only consistent one, consistent on behalf of the liberty of every individual.



The City of Vancouver's ban on smoking in all restaurants and the province of B.C.'s mandatory bicycle helmets are evidence of the dangerous new trend Dr. Ronald Hamowy cited in his February, 1996 supper club address. That is, government's justifying their infringement upon the personal liberties of individuals on the

grounds of promoting public health.



The City of Vancouver passed a new law which prohibits residential property owners from cutting down more than one tree on their property per year. It could have been worse, there was great pressure on the City to prohibit all tree cutting on private property. In Coquitlam, the mayor, despite great pressure to contrary, publicly stated that the local government could not

prevent a family from building a concrete fence (i.e. the "great wall") on their own private property. However, as soon as the wall was built, the Coquitlam government said it must be torn down because "it is not structurally sound". In a sea of socialism (i.e. lower mainland municipal governments), a partial acknowledgement and defence of private property rights is better than nothing at all.



Mike Harcourt was recently on CKNW's Rafe Mair radio show. The callers to this show did not treat the former premier of BC with the usually respect given to retired politicians; instead they exhibited strong anger toward him and the current government (presumably because of the many NDP lies and scandals). This anger directed at government and government officials seems

to be growing among British Columbians. The great libertarian Murray Rothbard once said that the greatest accomplishment of Richard Nixon was that he created an atmosphere in which Americans distrusted their government. Perhaps we should recognize the anger many British Columbians now have toward government and government officials as a significant accomplishment of both Mike Harcourt and Glen Clark.

Letters to the Editor

Send your letters to the editor of the WCL:

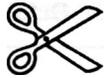
*by mail: c/o 88 - 6700 Rumble Street,
Burnaby, BC WE 4H7*

by email: Gordon_Denusik@bc.sympatico.ca

Dear Editor:

Once again, those of us who were able to attend our Annual General Meeting and Barbecue on 27th July last, must surely agree that it was an excellent way to spend a few hours on a glorious summer afternoon. Our special thanks are sincerely extended to Edith and Kurt Pokrandt for welcoming us to their home and garden, which made everything so much more enjoyable.

Bill Tomlinson



Liberty Snippets

New Leader of the LPC

The Libertarian Party of Canada ("LPC") once again, for only the second time in its history, has a full-time Leader.

At the May, 1996 triennial convention in Toronto, LPC delegates gathered to elect **Vincent Pouliot**, a native of Quebec, as its new Leader.

Vincent Pouliot, who is married and has three children, has what one may call a multi-cultural upbringing. Born in Ottawa in 1950, he was raised in Port Credit, just outside of Toronto. When he was 7 years old his family moved to Quebec City. He spent 4 years in Fredericton earning his business degree and 3 years in Sherbrooke, Quebec, earning his legal degree. To complete his education, he then spent one year in Central America. He subsequently travelled throughout Europe, the United States, India, and of course Canada.

Vincent was raised discussing libertarian principles, human nature and the effect of government on the economy. In 1990, he began in earnest to distinguish the elemental social physiology of humankind. During this time, he was introduced to **Frederic Bastiat's** *The Law*, which clearly demonstrates the purpose of law and the human tendencies that cause its almost universal perversion.

As leader, Vincent has committed himself, and the LPC, to demand a fundamental restructuring of government in Canada so that politicians' interest will shift from that of regulating every aspect of our lives to that of permitting us the freedom to develop our abilities to create wealth for both ourselves and for exchange.

Vincent's proposed restructuring of government involves restoring back to the provinces the exclusive responsibility to govern and limiting the size and role of the federal government. Vincent's proposal will be discussed in greater detail in the next issue.

If you wish to contact Vincent, his telephone number is (514) 943-2002. His email address is vpouliot@zoo.net.

-G. Denusik

Marc Emery for Mayor

Marc Emery, owner of the HempBC store, has announced that he will be a candidate for the Mayor of Vancouver in the upcoming municipal elections which take place on November 15th.

Emery, a past GVLA supper club speaker and long time activist for freedom (in 1988, he was arrested in Ontario because he opened his bookstore on a Sunday, thereby violating the Sunday store closure laws), is running on a campaign to end drug prohibition in the City of Vancouver.

In his campaign literature, which will be mailed to every household in Vancouver, Marc Emery promises that as mayor he will:

- cut crime in the city by one-half,
- save the Vancouver taxpayers millions of dollars;
- increase wealth into the hands of ordinary citizens and away from organized crime; and
- revitalize the Downtown Eastside.

How? By ending the prohibition of drugs in the City of Vancouver by whatever means necessary.

"The fruitless war on Canadians who use drugs currently banned by the government will be replaced by a wide and comprehensive harm reduction strategy, as is successfully practiced in most large European cities, such as Frankfurt, Zurich, Rome and especially Amsterdam," Emery promises.

Marc Emery's campaign manager is GVLA director-at-large, **Rob Gillespie**.

For those wanting more information on the Marc Emery for Mayor campaign call 669-4918, email marc4mayor@hempbc.com, or visit his webpage at www.hempbc.com/marc4mayor.

Incidentally, **Ian Hunter** of Victoria's Sacred Herb is running for Mayor of Victoria on a similar "drug decriminalization" platform. For information on Ian Hunter's campaign, call 250-384-0659, or visit his web page at www.sacredherb.com/~mayoraltyrace.html.

-K. Pearson

Libertarian Voice on the North Shore

The new monthly newspaper on the north shore, *The North & West Voice*, provides a distinctly libertarian flavour. GVLA member **Bill Tomlinson** is a regular columnist. Check it out! In the October, 1996 issue, Bill argues the futility of government programs designed to create employment.

-G. Denusik

*(Snippets - Continued)***Nothing New on Census Front**

A Press Release I sent out in May titled "End Census Coercion" was partly reprinted in the *Vancouver Sun* and quoted in *BC Report*, but so far, there has been no government response. I did get an interesting visit from three (3!) census takers who wondered why they hadn't received my filled out form. One seemed to be taking notes while the other two tried to persuade me of the benefits of complying (more government schools and hospitals for my neighbourhood!!). I guess they didn't know what would be persuasive for a libertarian. When that approach didn't seem to work, they asked me (politely) whether I was aware of the possible consequences of not participating. I believe I told them something to the effect of having to live with their consciences about turning people in to the government; and they went away. I'll be sure to let you know if anything else happens.

-P. Geddes

New GVLA Executive

At the August, 1996 AGM, the GVLA members chose **Marco den Ouden** as their new President. Marco, a news editor with BCTV and veteran active member of the GVLA, promises that as president, he and the new executive, will take on a more activist role in efforts to achieve a number of stated objectives, including a doubling of our membership and a greater media presence and exposure.

Past President **Kerry Pearson** remains on the Executive as treasurer. Former 1980's GVLA President **Wayne Marsden** rejoins the Executive as Vice President; and longtime local libertarian activist **Paul Geddes** returns as Secretary.

The At-Large Directors elected include: **Tunya Audain, Lewis Dahlby, Randy Eremko, D'arcy Flannery, Rob Gillespie, Dave McNeal, Paul Miniato, Kurt Pokrandt** and **Bill Tomlinson**.

-G. Denusik

Libertarianism on the Net!**Corporate Power versus Government Power***by Darcy Flannery*

The Internet is a treasure-trove of economic, political, and philosophic insights from the libertarian perspective. It behooves us to take advantage of this tremendous intellectual resource.



The following piece was posted to the newsgroup: alt.anarchism. The author, David W. Wall, was responding to a question presented by Jeffrey Straszheim, in the context of an ongoing newsgroup discussion, regarding the alleged difference between government power and that possessed by corporations.

I think that you will find David Wall's reply most pertinent.

Jeffrey Straszheim wrote:

How is corporate power fundamentally different than government power? Especially considering the types of influence corporations extend onto government.

David W. Wall replies:

You almost answer your own question. The single most effective thing that we could do to limit the power that corporations have over us is to limit the biggest stick they wield: their influence over government.

An interested corporation can wield considerable power by buying the government's interest. The government traditionally has, for some reason, the acknowledged right to force us to do things. So if Frammistan repairmen want to keep their rates high, they get the government to require Frammistan repairmen to be licensed, said licensing run by a board of existing Frammistan repairmen. If Go-Wagon manufacturers are worried that we'll buy Japanese Go-Wagons, they get the government to put a big tariff on them, or make them outright illegal.

Unless it can wield government power, the only power a corporation has is the power of persuasion. I can become a Frammistan repairman, and you can hire me, and all that the existing repairmen can do is to try and talk us out of it, perhaps by convincing you that the work will be shoddy unless you hire a member of the International Brotherhood of Frammistan Repairmen. You can buy a Japanese Go-Wagon, and all that the American manufacturer can do is to try and talk you out of it.

If you're really poor, and you don't know where your next meal is coming from, at the very least you've got a choice of which corporation to try and cut a deal with. A job at McDonald's is better than no job at all, and the only reason for that is that McDonald's does need workers, and is competing for them with Jack in the Box, Burger King, and all the rest.

Government says, "This one way is how it's going to be, take it or ... well, just take it. Or we put you in jail. If you try to stop us, we'll shoot you. If you still try to stop us, we'll kill you."

I honestly can't remember the last time McDonald's threatened to shoot somebody. Does that explain how corporate power differs fundamentally from government power?

Individualism and Libertarianism

by Paul Geddes

I live in a townhouse complex which is registered in BC as a condominium. This means that I share ownership of my complex (the land, structure and exterior) with my 23 neighbors.

I knew when I signed up that this arrangement might cause trouble. My parents own a condominium in Ontario. Their condominium council went completely bonkers with its rules, rules and more rules. No elevator riding without shoes, no sitting on the side of the hot tub (which had the best view of the city), no running on the exercise track etc. These rules were a great source of comedy at family gatherings. We joked about being constant criminals and whether that unsmiling person on the elevator was going to report us for some unknown new infraction. We joked about it making us feel (in a small way) what it must have been like to live in one of those humorless East European police states.

So, I knew walking in that my neighbors could legally outvote me on what colour my porch was to be painted but still the benefits (of a less expensive and convenient house) seemed to outweigh any drawbacks. I should also say before I start my complaining, that I don't expect to achieve utopia on earth and that I am not totally unhappy with my townhouse ... but ... THE CONFOUNDED POLITICS of shared ownership is a much bigger burden than I ever expected it to be.

We have to vote at an annual meeting about how much grass care we want, about the speed limit in our inner roadway, about parking regulations. We are not allowed to do certain repairs to the exterior of our houses because some neighbours do not want to do such repairs themselves and feel the complex would start to look uneven if only volunteers participated. I was officially reprimanded when I lifted a couple of planks from the common fence to allow my daughters easy access to the common property behind our unit. I agree these are petty complaints, but they've forced me to wonder about the nature of man and the first principles of libertarianism.

What is it about some people that leads them to enjoy controlling others? Some people positively enjoy creating rules and making life more "orderly". I admit that I am often judgmental about other people's actions but I can't see myself ever trying to outlaw something just because I don't like it. If my neighbour's garden is a little ugly, I might enjoy teasing him about it or gossiping with others about it, but I could never propose a new bylaw about it. The distinction I would make is that my business starts only when your

action could harm someone else. I can't see the point to some of our current bylaws which prohibit dark curtains, clothes lines or renting out units. What violation of rights are such bylaws trying to stop?

Note that this is about personal values of individualism and has nothing to do with libertarianism. How so? Remember, we're not talking here about laws of a government (with which I have never signed a contract) but about the bylaws of a jointly-owned property which I willingly signed into. From a libertarian point of view, my voluntary signature to the condominium contract leaves me little room to quibble. And yet the complaints I have as a libertarian about government are the same sort I have with our condominium's bylaws. There is too much regulation, too many busybodies, not enough personal responsibility, not enough tolerance, let alone too much taxation (condominium fees) and this determined by majority vote. In many ways, my petty condominium council has more power over me, and more ability to cause me unhappiness than remote Ottawa or Victoria. Sure I can move out, but that's just the same argument I also often get when I complain about government law.

These thoughts came to a head, thanks to a book my daughters recently checked out of the local library for our evening read. It was Daniel J. Pinkwater's *THE BIG ORANGE SPLOT* which I recommend highly to everyone interested in teaching the values of tolerance. We've read the book countless times and my daughters have memorized all the best lines.

In the book, Mr. Plumbean lives on an ordinary street where every house looks exactly the same. One night, a seagull drops a can of orange paint on his house and instead of removing the paint, Mr. Plumbean goes crazy. To the consternation of his neighbors, he embellishes his house with a rainbow of colours, baobab trees, a pet alligator and a hammock in the front yard. And after complaining, his neighbors slowly convert, one after another to living just like Mr. Plumbean where "My house is me and I am it. My house is where I like to be and it looks like all my dreams".

Exactly! That's the kind of community I want to live in. Why can't we just live and let live? But are these my individualist values or my libertarian ones?

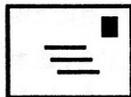
Orderly people should be free to set up orderly communities too. Some people obviously enjoy enforcing and submitting to tiny petty dictatorships and should be allowed to. Obviously the majority in my condominium despite the objec-

Letters to the Editor that should have been printed!

(Send us letters you have sent to the editors of major newspapers. If they don't print it, we will!)

CRTC Bureaucrats

Letter to the Editor
The Vancouver Sun
2250 Granville Street
Vancouver, BC V6H 3G2



Dear Editor:

I read with interest that the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) will allow a new television station in Greater Vancouver (Competition Fierce for West Coast TV, *The Weekend Sun*, August 31st, 1996).

Apparently the CRTC's market study shows that there is enough demand to permit one new station, perhaps two, into the local TV market. Five broadcasting companies have been campaigning for months to be selected for a dearly sought after local TV license. Hearings into applications for new local TV licenses will be held and the public is invited to make submissions.

I have a suggestion which provides for greater public input. Permit all five interested broadcasting companies to open a new TV station. Consumers will then have the opportunity to view each new station. Those stations that provide the best programming as judged by each individual will attract that person as a viewer. Each time a member of the public chooses to watch one station over another, that member of the public will in effect "vote" for the success of that TV station. The TV station that attracts the most "votes" - attracts the most viewers - will thereby be "elected" industry leader. Some TV stations will attract many viewers and succeed, no doubt others will not and will fail. However it will be the people who will choose which TV stations and what programming will continue to operate in the local market.

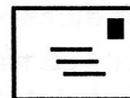
It is a shame that a handful of powerful bureaucrats will make this decision instead of the people.

S.R. Lechim
Burnaby, BC

Support the fight for liberty - Contribute to the GVL Just one of the many activities performed by the GVL is the promotion of libertarianism at BC's universities and colleges. The GVL provides reading lists and materials to students (to let them know about Rothbard, Friedman, Rand, Block, etc.) and offers a scholarship. For further information, write the GVL, 922 Cloverly Street, North Vancouver, BC V7L 1N3.

Government Nationalizes Blood!

Letter-to-the-Editor,
The Globe & Mail
444 Front St., W.,
Toronto, Ontario M5V 2S9



Sirs,

Why are our doinkhead health ministers trying to impose on our blood collection system the same type of institution which turned "Canadian postal service" into an oxymoron? Don't our political masters ever learn? Over and over again, subsidized government monopolies have proven themselves to be irresponsible spendthrifts which fall further and further behind advances made by more competitive arrangements.

By establishing this national blood collection agency, our health ministers have made a bad situation worse. First we had a non-profit social agency which somehow couldn't make ends meet in a business in which it was the only legal supplier, received free raw material (donors only got orange juice and cookies) and sold this product blood for \$120 per unit to the government. What kind of colossal mismanagement did it take to mess up in this business? They didn't even pay taxes and received tons of free advertising for all their blood drives!

And now, instead of allowing private businesses to bid on delivering better service, our health ministers who obviously know much more about the real world than ordinary business sorts are going to use their talents to more directly control this business. Shouldn't they have checked the evidence about the results of their government interference in broadcasting, railways, pensions, let alone the rest of health care before they made such a bold, brave and unique policy change?

Anyone want to bet on how many years it will be before this new monopoly agency is responsible for the next national blood scandal?

Sincerely,

Paul Geddes
Coquitlam, BC

Humour from the Net

by Kerry Pearson

President Clinton is arriving back to D.C. after a trip to Us home state of Arkansas. He steps out of the plane carrying two pigs, one under each arm. When he reaches the bottom of the stairs the Marine guard sharply salutes him as usual.

Clinton: "I'd like to salute you back son, but as you can see my hands are full."

M^rine: "Yes sir! Mighty fine pigs, sir!"

Clinton: "These aren't just ordinary pigs, Marine. They are pure Arkansas Razorback pigs!"

Varine: "Yes sir! Mighty fine Razorbacks, sir!"

Clinton: "I got this one for Hillary and this one for Chelsea."

Marine: "Yes, sir! Good trade, sir!"

Libertarianism & Individualism

(Continued from page 6)

tions of a few of us see no real imposition from their bylaws. They don't want to hear about the net real gains we could all achieve with a little more tolerance. They seem to get joy out of the very existence of restrictions.

So what does this lead me to conclude about libertarianism? Not as pessimistic as you might think. If so many otherwise goodwilled people insist on setting up mini-governments to restrict each others' everyday living, what hope do we have for a freer country? But then again, it is much more difficult to control bigger groups. Sure there will be many (condominium) pockets of intolerance towards certain tastes, but within a bigger unit there are also more opportunities for outbreaks of freedom. In other words, my individualist values are more likely to come to fruition not by my constant carping at condo meetings (although I'm still going to try) but in competition between condominiums and other forms of housing that will keep arising in my community (Ignoring for the moment, the evil effects of government zoning.)

'96 ISIL Conference at Whistler

(Continued from page 1)

for rating countries for freedom that was developed by the Fraser Institute and several other world wide think tanks. But this was just the warm up act! The question and answer session that followed was a free wheeling discussion about various topics, from abortion to legalizing blackmail to the questions of unchosen obligations to voluntary slavery. Walter was hoisted on his own petard on that latter one and was persuaded to have himself auctioned off as a slave on the final evening fund raising auction event!

- Nobel Prize nominee Leon Louw's humorous stories of "filling out forms" as well as his case for practicality. Leon urged libertarians to be practical and strive to achieve small victories for liberty. According to Leon that means working within the current government structure and institutions and not demanding 100% pure liberty on each and every issue. Those who only demand and promote 100% liberty (for example, a total repeal of tax versus, say, a 5% reduction) will never succeed. Leon argued liberty can only be advanced through small steps.
- Jacob "Bumper" Hornberger's inspiring Gala Dinner speech. Jacob, founder and president of Future of Freedom Foundation, emphasized the importance of standing up for freedom. He recited the true story of the White Rose Movement, where college students in Germany, during the height of the Nazi reign, resisted and rebelled against Hitler by way of pamphleteering. Unfortunately the college students were eventually caught and executed; but their courage and willingness to fight for liberty are an inspiration to all friends and proponents of liberty.
- The renowned John Perry Barlow, former lyricist for the Grateful Dead, and his speech on liberty, freedom and the Internet. The founder of the Electronic Frontier Foundation and contributing editor to *Wired* magazine, John recited his *Declaration of the Freedom of Cyberspace* and argued that attempts to censor this new frontier would be futile. (Jerry's talk was covered by CBC television who ran an excerpt of it on their newscast.)
- Larry Dodge and his speech on the Fully Informed Jury Association ("FIJA"). FIJA is a U.S. non-profit organization established to re-educate Americans that juries have the right to judge both the law and facts when deliberating a verdict to which the government is a party. According to Larry, the right of juries to judge and, if necessary, nullify a law was recognized by the authors of the U.S. constitution. Such a right, Larry pointed out, provides an effective check against an otherwise growing and intrusive govern-

(96 ISIL Conference - Continued)

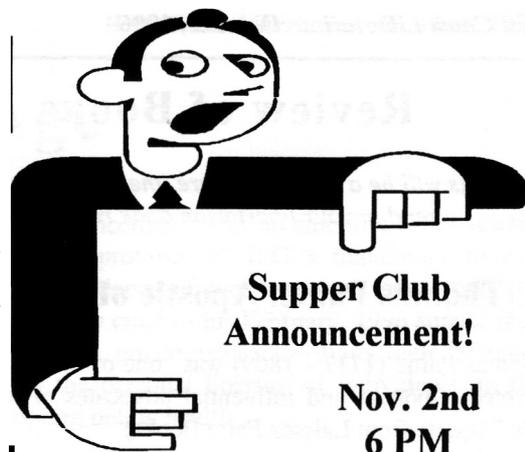
ment. When the jury is given back their right to judge the law, the U.S. government, in Larry's opinion, will then be restored to that "of, by and for the people." (Larry's speech about FIJA sparked such great interest among the Canadians at the Conference that a Canadian branch of FIJA will soon be established.)

- Linda Abrams' food for thought on fighting city hall. It's important, the L.A. lawyer and actress said, to know what your goals are and how far you want to go in fighting the government. If you want to be a martyr and go to jail, then by all means push resistance to the limit. But if your goal is something else, tailor your tactics to your goal. Sound advice for all!
- Canada's own Karen Selick who talked about the various scam artists that have traipsed through her law practice over the years. Not just folks on welfare, mind you, but your everyday middle class types. Everyone has a scheme to rip off the taxpayer. It was an illuminating story of a system corrupting its citizens.
- Jarrett Wollstein and his true horror stories from the "land of the free" - where the U.S. government seizes private property in the name of the War on Drugs.
- The opening talk by Dr. Mary Ruwart. Dr. Ruwart is the author of *Healing Our World*, which presents libertarianism as a win-win proposition in contrast to coercion. Her talk, "Healing Our World Through Wealth Creation", emphasized over and over again that we need merely state our truth and eventually, the truth will set us free. She pointed out that the real source of wealth is not raw materials, minerals and other natural resources, but rather it is the human mind, the creative idea and the new way of looking at things. Thus wealth is in fact unlimited. Dr. Ruwart was a thoroughly charming speaker with her soft spoken and thoughtful message.

Other highlights included: Doug Collins and his spirited attack on the government censors in Canada; Marc Emery and his animated speech on the history of marijuana laws; Herb Grubel's attack on the media; John Hospers and Barbara Brandon on Ayn Rand; Terry Brock powerful and dynamic presentation on how the Internet and computers will advance liberty; Pierre Lemieux, David Sommerville, George Smith and more speakers; the philosophical discussions at the hospitality suites; the panel conference; etc. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH SPACE TO LIST ALL THE HIGHLIGHTS!

The 1996 ISIL Conference was indeed a great and memorable event. Again special thanks and congratulations must be given to Kurt Pokrandt, because without his vision, commitment and leadership, there would have been no Conference at Whistler in 1996. As well, recognition must be given to the following people who volunteered their time to ensure the Conference was a success: Tunya Audain, Katherine Connell, Lewis Dahlby, Rob Glimpse, Wayne Marsden, Paul Miniato, Marco den Ouden, Edith Pokrandt, Kerry Pearson, Brian Taylor and Bill Tomlinson.

Gord Denusik and Marco den Ouden



Supper Club Announcement!

Nov. 2nd
6 PM

Slaying the Tax Dragon!

Peter Macdonald, leader of the Progressive Conservative Party of B.C. and long-time tax reduction advocate, is the featured guest at the November 2nd GVLA Supper Club.

Peter, a very entertaining speaker, will speak on both his past and current efforts to reduce our enormous tax burden. He will also talk about his most recent proposal - the *Tax Cap*.

6 PM on November 2, 1996
At Cheers Restaurant
125 E. 2nd St., North Vancouver, BC

RSVP: Bill (980-7370) or Paul (944-2845)

BC Libertarian Party "Deregistered"

We filed the BCLP end-of-election financial papers late and refused to submit the onerous "late-filing" fee. As a result, Elections BC has declared the BCLP to be "deregistered". This means that until we get re-registered the BCLP can no longer issue provincial tax receipts for new contributions, or have representatives be identified as "Libertarian" on provincial election ballots (note: this does not affect the GVLA and its ability to issue federal tax receipts). Elections BC is also asking for us to transfer all BCLP remaining funds to them. We are considering our options. Should we just ignore Elections BC, start a new party, or make application to the court for relief? Phone BC Party Leader Ken Wiebe (250-384-4505) or Party President Rob Gillespie (936-5103) with your suggestions about how best to handle this.

Paul Geddes

Review of Books

(As this will be a regular feature, the WCL wants you to send in your libertarian book reviews.)

Thomas Paine: Apostle of Freedom

Thomas Paine (1737 - 1809) was "one of the world's most devoted, eloquent and influential advocates of human liberty." (quote from Laissez Faire Books)

The author of both

- *Common Sense*, the fiery and influential pamphlet which emphasized natural rights and led the colonists of America in 1776 to declare their independence from England, and
- *Rights of Man*, the pamphlet embodied in the theory of natural rights which defended the ideas of the French Revolution and earned him a conviction in Britain for treason,

Thomas Paine played a significant role in the advancement of liberty in the late 18th century.

For those wanting to learn more about Thomas Paine, his life and his writings, I recommend Jack Fruchtman, Jr.'s 1994 book, *Thomas Paine: Apostle of Freedom*.

Fruchtman's biography of Paine is a lively, enjoyable, easy read; covering all aspects of Paine's life:

- his early years in Thetford, England;
- his lack of success as a corset maker, sailor and bureaucrat;
- his move to America at the age of 37 with only a letter of introduction from Benjamin Franklin;
- *Common Sense*, which ignited the spark which led to America's declaration of independence;
- the *American Crises* series during the American Revolutionary War;
- his travels to England and France;
- his meetings with significant figures in history (e.g. Edmund Burke, Thomas Jefferson, Marquis de Lafayette, Joseph Priestly, Joel Barlow and George Washington);
- his role in the early part of the French Revolution;
- his defence of natural rights, refute of Burke's conservatism, and promotion of a world revolution in *Rights of Man*;
- his trial *in absentia* for treason in Britain because of *Rights of Man*;
- his imprisonment in France during the counter revolution when he was almost sent to the guillotine;
- *Age of Reason*, which led many to erroneously believe he was an atheist; and
- his less than triumphant return to America

where he was vigorously criticized and shunned and eventually died a poor outcast.

Fruchtman covers all of Paine's major writings (e.g. *Common Sense*, *Rights of Man*, *Age of Reason*) and many of his lesser known works (e.g. *Decline and Fall of the English System of Finance* and *Letter to George Washington*). Regarding his writings, Paine himself wrote: "my motive and object in all my political works ... have been to rescue man from tyranny and false systems and false principles of government, and enable him to be free." *Common Sense* and *Rights of Man* area clear indication of this.

None of Paine's written works are fully reprinted in this book, however Fruchtman does extensively quote from Paine's writings in order to summarize its theme and message as well as to provide support for conclusions the author reaches. Those wanting a very deep and heavy philosophical analysis of Paine's writings may be slightly disappointed. This is because Fruchtman targets those readers who do not have an extensive knowledge of Paine and his writings. In the end, Fruchtman succeeds in providing the reader with a basic knowledge of Paine's life and an understanding and awareness of his literary works.

Of most interest in this book is Fruchtman's analysis of those people or events which may have influenced Paine in his writings.

Eventhough Paine claimed to have never read John Locke (the great English philosopher who wrote *Two Treatises of Government*), Fruchtman argues that he was influenced by Lockean ideas. Fruchtman compares parts of *Common Sense* to that of Locke's philosophy in order to support this claim. For example, Fruchtman notes:

"In Common Sense, Paine made direct use of Locke's distinction between society and government, holding, as had Locke, that society (which was natural) preceded government."

Fruchtman also notes:

"Paine agreed with Locke when he said government [was] categorically different from society - while society was good, government was evil, though necessary."

The comparison presented by Fruchtman enables the reader to not only gain a good grasp of the Paine's message in *Common Sense* but also a good understanding of the philosophy of John Locke.

In his analysis of *Rights of Man, Part I*, Fruchtman argues that Paine was still influenced by Lockean ideas. However, as for *Part II* (written one year later in 1792) Fruchtman

claims that Paine's thoughts shifted from that of Locke to Swiss philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau. Paine's emphasis in *Part H* on such terms as "general will" and "nation" and his focus on the concept of community and communal responsibility (i.e. he even stated that government should take care of the poor, children and elderly as well as provide public education) was in Fruchtman's opinion a clear indication of a Rousseauist influence. Fruchtman provides a summary of Rousseau's political thoughts to support his assertion. As well, he notes that during the time Paine wrote the second part to *Rights of Man*, Rousseau ideas were widely discussed among the many French writers and thinkers Paine associated with.

To fully grasp the significance of *Rights of Man*, it is important to have a basic understanding of Edmund Burke's *Reflections of the Revolution in France*. Because it was Burke's argument for conservatism in *Reflections* which led to Paine to write a refutation in *Rights of Man*. Fruchtman, in his analysis of *Rights of Man*, provides the reader with a very good summary of Burke's *Reflections*.

To many libertarians, *Age of Reason*, which was Paine's critique and attack on organized religion, is perhaps the least known of all Paine's major writings. Fruchtman provides a thorough summary of this pamphlet. For example, he points out that Paine did not, as many were led to believe, deny the existence of god in *Age of Reason*, but in fact asserted that God was the creator.

In *Age of Reason*, Paine attacked priests, preachers and other religious institutions, as well as the Bible, because they appeared to him as "no other than human inventions, set up to terrify and enslave mankind and monopolize power and profit." Fruchtman argues and provides support that Paine viewed priests and other religious figures as acting as middlemen between government and the people thereby providing legitimacy to an otherwise tyrannical government. And it was this vision of Paine's, that of a conspiracy of church and government to defraud the citizenry, which led to his aggressive literary critique of organized religion.

Fruchtman considers Thomas Paine to be a true "apostle of freedom" but notes that after returning to America in 1802, Paine did not receive the respect due to such a great man. In Fruchtman's opinion, this was primarily because of *Age of Reason*, which upset many religious Americans, and Paine's attack on George Washington (i.e. *Letter to George Washington*) and his battles with the powerful Federalists. [note: the Federalists - led by Alexander Hamilton, John Adams - were a powerful political faction in the U.S. which supported a large and powerful federal government; their opponents were the Republicans - led by Jefferson - who favoured a weak decentralized government.]

Fruchtman writes that in his latter years, Paine was criticized and ridiculed by the new generation of Americans and shunned by the old. Paine's great gift to America (i.e. *Common Sense*) was all but forgotten. Fruchtman notes that when Paine died in 1809 at the age of 72, a New York newspaper commented: "He had lived long, did some good, and much harm."

Jack Fruchtman, Jr.'s *Thomas Paine: Apostle of Freedom* is available at the better bookstores.

- Gord Denusik

Thomas Paine's *Common Sense*

Paine's arguments in this 1776 pamphlet were based on the philosophy of John Locke, that is: people are born with natural rights; and they enter into a social contract to form government in order to protect these rights. Paine argued that the British government was not set up by way of a social contract but rather was born in naked conquest and plunder - "we should find the first King none other than the principal ruffian of some ruthless gang". He referred to King George III the "Royal Brute of Britain" and questioned why people should acknowledge this person for no reason other than the fact he is a heir of William the Conqueror. Paine revealed how foolish it was for America to maintain its allegiance to England. It was time, he argued, for America to declare its independence and form a new government, one which would protect the natural rights of the colonists. For Paine, the choice for American colonists was clear - independence or slavery - "TIS TIME TO PART".

Calendar of Events

Nov. 2, 1996 6:00 PM

Supper Club - *Slaying the Tax Dragon*
Peter Macdonald, PC Party of BC
Cheers Restaurant
125 E. 2nd St., North Vancouver
RSVP: Bill (980-7370) or Paul (944-2845)

Nov. 10, 1996 10:00 AM

GVLA Executive Meeting
703 - 1180 Falcon Dr., Coquitlam
RSVP: Paul (944-2845) or Marco (467-8800)

Nov. 23, 1996 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM Liberty:

Have we reached a turning point? An Historical Perspective
Robert Higgs and Ralph Raico
Holiday Inn - Wilsonville, Oregon
RSVP: Freedom Seminars (503-370-7188)

Harry Browne: Libertarian for President '96

The U.S. Presidential election is fast approaching. On November 5, 1996 Americans will vote for either Democrat Bill Clinton, Republican Bob Dole, Reform Party leader Ross Perot or Libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne to serve as the President of the U.S. for the next four years. And although it is unlikely Harry Browne will win, he has done a spectacular job in raising the profile of the U.S. Libertarian Party ("USLP").

The USLP has yet to have any of its presidential candidates receive greater than one million votes. The 1992 presidential candidate, Andre Marrou, received approximately 300,000 votes. In 1988, Ron Paul received close to 500,000. The most votes received was approximately 970,000 by Ed Clark in 1980. However this time, given the media exposure Harry Browne has attracted with his professionally campaign and his successful selling book, *Why Government Doesn't Work*, the USLP presidential candidate may receive in excess of 1 million votes.

Harry Browne's campaign has been frequently written about in all major U.S. newspapers including the *New York Times* and *Washington Post*. Browne has been on numerous talk radio shows including the nationally syndicated Oliver North and Michael Reagan shows. He has been on CNN with Larry King, CBS's late-night news show, PBS's *Democracy 96*, and many major local news programs. He has television ads appearing on CNN and radio ads on national radio shows. He consistently tops Clinton and Dole on the CNN/Time Internet Election poll.

Clearly this has been the most effective and successfully run campaign by a USLP presidential candidate. On election day, Browne should come close, if not break, the one million vote barrier. And if he does, it would not only be a great achievement for the still young USLP but it would also provide a strong base from which the USLP can build upon for the presidential election in the year 2000.

"This year don't waste your vote. If want smaller government, vote for it - not for Bill Clinton, who wants the government to grow at a rate of 4% a year, or Bob Dole, who wants it to grow at 3%. I'm Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate for President. This year, vote for freedom. Vote to get your life back. Vote for Harry Browne."

-Excerpt from one of Harry Browne's television ads which are being run on the Larry King show and other CNN programs.

"Mr. Clinton, Mr. Dole, you aren't the sons of the American Revolution; you are the Redcoats - and we are trying to free America from your imperial grasp."

-Excerpt from Harry Browne's speech in front of 500 supporters at a rally in Boston. The speech was at Faneuil Hall, which was the site of many historic speeches made by American patriots in the days of the American Revolution. Browne was responding to the fact that many current politicians claim to be descendants of the great American patriots.

1996 U.S. Libertarian Party Platform

Reducing Government

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, says government doesn't work - and he wants to remove the federal government immediately and completely from every activity not specified in the Constitution - education, energy, regulation, crime control, welfare, housing, transportation, health care, agriculture, and all the other areas the federal government has stuck its nose into unconstitutionally over the past 60 years.

The Income Tax

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, wants to end the income tax and abolish the IRS his first year in office and replace them with nothing. By reducing the federal government to its Constitutional functions, we can do away with all direct taxes - the income, estate, gift, capital gains, and Social Security taxes - financing national defence and the federal judiciary with the level of tariffs and excise taxes being collected already. Harry Browne makes this offer to every: Would you give up all your favorite federal programs - such things as farm subsidies, student loans, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and any other programs - in order to be free of the income tax forever?

Government Spending

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, knows that government doesn't work. He doesn't just want to stop government growth - he proposes slashing the federal budget 50% the first year as a first step.

Balanced Budget

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, plans to balance the budget his first year in office by reducing government spending. He also plans to sell off federal assets - and use the proceeds to pay off the federal debt entirely.

Crime & the War on Drugs

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, says the War on Drugs is a total failure. Government can't keep drugs out of the country; it can't even keep drugs out of its own prisons. He wants to end the insane War on Drugs - which will take the criminal profit out of the illicit drug trade and bring peace to our cities once again. On his first day in office, he will pardon everyone who has been convicted of a non-violent federal drug offense - to empty the federal prisons of the marijuana smokers and others who are no threat to society, and make room for the truly violent criminals and other thugs who escape prison through early releases and plea bargains to return to the streets and terrorize our citizens.

Personal Values

Harry Browne, the Libertarian candidate, respects the right of all Americans to choose and act on their own personal values, to work together in their families and communities to achieve the goals they set for themselves. Americans throughout their history have proven their ability to solve problems their own way, without government interference.