



san mateo county

libertarian

the newsletter for the Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

spring 2013

message from the chair

By Harland Harrison

What's wrong with the USA - Part 3, Conclusion

Libertarians know something has gone terribly wrong with the USA. The citizens have lost control of an imperial government, a gargantuan enterprise which is bankrupting the nation and threatening the world. The government no longer follows its Constitution, but even if it did, the restraints in that 200 year old document no longer suffice to protect democracy. Why should Libertarians continue to work within this disaster of a political system? I think evolving technology will change politics. Technology has changed the physical world, and new media technology will change society.

In the end, all governments rule by consent. Democracy works well because it measures consent, adjusting government accordingly. Although US policies seem absurd to Libertarians, the electorate does believe in them.

Governments maintain consent by propaganda. Political campaigns make huge investments in advertising. Corporations which depend on government wars and boondoggles, buy media to steer public opinion.

While advertising grows, the nature of media has continuously changed. Marshall McLuhan described the "hot" media of giant screens in the 20th century. Powerful images left no freedom for original thought or decision. By contrast, the "cool" media from the 19th century, like political cartoons, encouraged reflection, discussion and choice. In the 21st century, resolution has increased even further, but the huge number of channels has restored choice to the consumer.

Governments have deceived their constituents for millennia. The most oppressive governments claim a religious validation for their reign, even today. When Benjamin Netanyahu

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pointedly gave Obama a copy of the Book of Esther last year, he was not appealing for the Rule of Law. In the Book of Esther, the Jews killed 75,000 Persians! How many Iranians would die, if the US attacked Iran at the behest of Netanyahu? While George W Bush said he invaded Iraq to defeat the biblical fantasies of "Gog and Magog", Obama has wisely refused to attack Iran -- at least for now.

While only a minority will question religion, today, a heresy can reach everyone on the internet. Some scholars think that Book of Esther may even be a fake. It is the only book left out of the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the only historical account in the Bible which never mentions God. Anyone can find this heretical position on the internet, but few people ever read the obscure printed journals just decades before.

The Soviet Union failed because it could no longer control public opinion. The Samizdat, the underground publications, eventually brought the Communist system down. The KGB had tried to lock up every press, copier and typewriter, but advancing technology made that impossible. Today, China openly suppresses the internet. Efforts by governments to control the internet will spread, and the US will not be any exception. The persecution of Bradley Manning and Julian Assange of Wiki Leaks, and repeated attempts to pass draconian regulations like CISPA, all reveal a US government frightened of the internet and the truth it can publicize.

The US government will eventually change. It will either evolve into a total police state or into a truly free society. A violent revolution or a dramatic legislation will herald that change, either way. As Libertarians we have an important influence on this future. We must keep seeking the truth, and keep demanding freedom.

For Liberty.

Harland Harrison

Chair, Libertarian Party of San Mateo County

newsletter correction

LPSM member Jack Hickey did **not** lose his seat on the Sequoia Healthcare District Board last November, as mistakenly mentioned in the Winter 2012 newsletter. Jack received more than 32,000 votes.

The election result for dissolution of the Board was 4% better than in 2008.

guest editorial:

the trendy drive to ban plastic bags

by Terry Chong

The bag ban is sucking the air out of local businesses by turning shoppers like me away. Plastic is durable and can be made easily without the need for much in natural resources, compared to the trees for paper bags and the cotton needed for cotton bags. Production causes less of a greenhouse effect, and less impact on global warming. Yet, plastic grocery bags are now being demonized by "green" people. The false environmentalists make scientific claims that the bags kill marine lives, even though the plastic at fault is not from plastic bags, but the hard plastic from plastic jugs and tubs.

I use plastic grocery bags to line my trash bin. Without them, I will have to buy much thicker and larger trash bags, which are worse for the environment. I use small paper drugstore bags to compost food waste. Since I am not going to spend my hard earned money on bags, food waste will now go directly in the trash; an unintended consequence thanks to the supervisors.

A 10 cent fee per bag has been applied to ALL retailers in my area. I now don't do "discretionary" shopping. I don't go window shopping, or make impulse purchases. I cannot accept the "If you want a bag, it is 10 cents," insult. Do you expect me to bring a recycled bag into Macy's or Banana Republic? Please, give me a break here! This is insane!

I am always a bit annoyed by the question, "Bag or no bag?". In response, I recently blurted out, "I hate this bag fee!" The girl retorted "You should go to Civic Center and tell the people there!"

She was darn right!

If I don't tell the lawmakers, I forfeit my right to complain. So, I set up this blog:

<http://repealbagfee.blogspot.com/>

and an online petition:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/san-francisco-mayor-edwin-lee-and-board-of-supervisors-to-modify-current-plastic-bag-ban-and-bag-fee>

to call for civic activism and to invite people to speak up.

We need a balanced perspective from the business and consumer sectors. We need real science from the Clean Seas Coalition, the NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and Greenpeace. I am aggressively reaching out for more supporters.

I hope to get your support.

santa cruz bag ban



**the lpsm website
has a new look!**

**you can now find the
meeting schedule
and announcements**

at

lpsm.org

2013 LPSM election results

executive committee

chair: Harland Harrison

vice chair: Lois Garcia

secretary: Gary Tutin

treasurer: Paul Lazaga

alternates

Tom Lippman and Marcus Fallen

judicial committee

Tom Lippman

Christopher Schmidt

Paul Lazaga

database chair

Christopher Schmidt

webmistress

Lois Garcia

**LP of
san francisco
tax protest**

at the

**san francisco
civic center**

April 15, 2013

lpsf-activists@yahoogroups.com

<http://www.lpsf.org/>

libertarian party of san mateo county

PO Box 745

Belmont CA 94002