

## KANSAS LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEETS

An organizational meeting of the Kansas Libertarian Party was held on September 14, 1974, at the Ramada Inn in Topeka. Approximately 40 persons from throughout the state, as well as several observers from Missouri, attended the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to organize a chartered Libertarian Party in Kansas. A petition was signed for presentation to the National Libertarian Party, requesting formal recognition by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

The primary function of the organization at this time will be as an educational and informational source, and to assist in promoting recognition in Kansas of the National Libertarian Party as well as the libertarian movement.

Dale Wilson and Joseph Bicking, Topeka, were elected Co-Chairmen. Jim Conklin, Overland Park, was named Finance Committeeman. Dolores Prellberg, Overland Park; James Ward, Garnett; Lin Zinser, Wichita; and Richard Dyer, Kansas City, Kansas, were appointed as Regional Coordinators for public relations, informational and educational objectives of the Kansas organization.

The next meeting will be in Topeka, November 17, 1974. New members and interested observers will be welcome at that meeting.

For further information, please call Dale Wilson at 357-6296.

## LIBERTARIAN ALTERNATIVE

Charles F. Barr, Jr., Chairman of Libertarian Alternative of Los Angeles, had his ballot argument opposing Proposition A (which will increase the sales tax in the Los Angeles County area) accepted by the County. The argument, reprinted below, has been printed in the voter information booklet that will be mailed to all 3,000,000+ voters in the Southern California Rapid Transit District — a rather cost-effective means of getting libertarian views out to a wide audience.

*Proposition A is an attempt by the R.T.D. to extend its mass transit monopoly by socking it to the taxpayer once again.*

*The R.T.D. wants to add another cent to our already excessive sales tax, to increase the scope of its inefficient, bureaucratic, monopolistic transit system. At the same time, the R.T.D. is vigorously opposing any attempt to allow free competition in transportation services, even though private transportation systems would not cost the taxpayer one cent.*

*At the heart of the R.T.D.'s proposal is a rail line that will cost billions of dollars, yet will carry only 6 percent of the people in the district. How will this achieve "mass transit"? And why should the other 94 percent be forced to pay for it?*

*If we allow the R.T.D. to maintain and extend its monopoly, we will be helping to create a situation where a transit strike could cripple the metropolitan area. San Francisco's recent troubles can happen here — if we let it.*

*It's time to put a stop to the R.T.D.'s attitude that our tax money is theirs for the taking. This money rightfully belongs to the people who earn it, and they should have the right to spend it on whatever form of transportation they require.*

*Rather than being extended, the R.T.D.'s mass transit monopoly should be repealed; and competitive taxis, minibuses, jitneys and other vehicles should be allowed to operate in a free market to provide the transportation service we so desperately need.*

*Don't let the R.T.D. have another "free ride" at your expense. Vote "No" on Proposition A.*

## NOTES

The Libertarian Party of Santa Barbara County and Santa Barbara Libertarian Alternative meet jointly on the third Thursday of every month at the home of REASON editors Lynn Kinsky and Robert Poole, 294 Via El Encantador, Santa Barbara, CA 93111. The next meeting will be held November 21st at 7:30 PM and all interested persons are invited to attend. For further information contact the LP-Santa Barbara at 805-964-4131 . . . The Midwestern Libertarian Conference will be held December 7th in Chicago at the Hyatt Regency Hotel. The morning session will be devoted to the election of new officers of the Illinois Libertarian

Party and a general business session; the afternoon session will consist of a conference featuring speakers Roger McBride, Karl Bray and Dr. Jaggard, among others. For further information contact Steve Nelson at 312-969-1088 . . . The Society for Individual Liberty is sponsoring several Fifth Anniversary Conferences on November 16th at various places around the country. The East Coast Conference will be held at Rutgers University and will feature speakers Tibor Machan, Eric Mack, Louis Folino and A. Weintraub — for further information call 215-672-4133. The West Coast Conference will be held at the University of Southern California and will feature speakers Robert Cunningham, Milton Shapiro, Lynn Kinsky, and Manuel Klausner — for further information call 213-432-3868 or 213-482-3822. The Southern Conference will be held at Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale and will feature David Friedman, William Marina and Howard Maccabee. For further information call 305-587-0187. And last, but not least — the Southwestern Conference will be held at the Roadway Inn in Houston, TX and will feature Leonard Liggio, Ron Paul, Dick Bjornseth and Robert Bakhaus. For information call 713-477-5989. □

## A LADY

*You are beautiful and faded,  
Like an old opera tune  
Played upon a harpsichord;  
Or like the sun-flooded silks  
Of an eighteenth century boudoir.  
In your eyes  
Smoulder the fallen roses of outlived  
minutes,*

*And the perfume of your soul  
Is vague and suffusing,  
With the pungence of sealed spice jars.  
Your half-tones delight me,  
And I grow mad with gazing  
At your blent colors.*

*My vigor is a new-minted penny,  
Which I cast at your feet.  
Gather it up from the dust,  
That its sparkle may amuse you.*

Amy Lowell

## NIETZSCHE

Robert Greenwood's fine article "Ayn Rand and the Literary Critics" (November) is slightly marred by an understandable but still incorrect interpretation of Nietzsche. Greenwood says that "The *Übermensch*, in Nietzsche's terms, is beyond morality, or more precisely, beyond good and evil." When taken out of context Nietzsche's overman does appear to be a nihilist or amoralist, somewhat on the order of the Stirnerite model. Once, however, we realize that Nietzsche fought Kantian duty-morality tooth and nail, and once we understand that it is beyond the good and evil of that morality that the overman must reach, characterizing Nietzsche himself as endorsing the idea of going beyond morality as such is misleading.

Nietzsche did not manage ever to formulate the tenets of a morality for human beings. But he did tell us that once the Kantian ideals have killed society, once nihilism has had its day (as he thought would be the case with our own times), new values will have to be identified, values that are pro-life. Nietzsche's emphasis of the human will in contrast to human reason must also be seen in the light of what Descartes, Hume and Kant did to the prominent idea of reason via their philosophies — dehumanize it into a formal calculus. All this noted, it becomes understandable that Rand herself was attracted to Nietzsche, as shown, incidentally, in some passages of the early edition of *We the Living* (later removed by Rand and explained without complete precision).

Tibor R. Machan  
Fredonia, NY

## SPECULATION

I have always considered it my job, as a rational human being, to carefully consider what is put forth as "truth," rejecting that which is anti-reason, and integrating that which is logical into the scope of my own knowledge.

Evidently, Patricia Levy-Gleason would disagree. In her review of *The Secret Life of Plants* [September], she does more than tear apart an obviously mystical, bizarre book. She throws a wet blanket over any conjecture at all in the realm of knowledge, condemning everything that cannot be proved at this stage of human development, regardless of plausibility.

There are questions, however, in all the

books she mentioned, that need to be answered. Why do plants grow better with music than without? Why do plants grow better with classical music than with acid rock? Why do hundreds of seemingly upstanding, responsible people report UFO sightings every year? Where did the huge stone carvings on Easter Island originate? What is there about a human's mind that can convince him that he, or someone else, is possessed by devils? These questions are derived from demonstrable facts, and are certainly within the realm of scientific inquiry.

Mankind's knowledge does not move upward in a continuum, it is a series of conjectures being proven correct, and for any one conjecture proven correct, there were many, many more which fell by the wayside, having been proven incorrect. The point here is that conjecture is an essential element of scientific inquiry, and that a blanket condemnation of it because it does not fit in with current knowledge is no different than blanket condemnation of it because it does not fit in with the Bible. It is sad indeed to see a libertarian and a Dark-Ages religious leader walking hand-in-hand in this manner.

Gregory Davis  
Anchorage, AK

## PRECEDENT

As unsatisfactory as conditional amnesty is, one must admire the courage of President Ford for opening the question at a convention of Veterans of Foreign War. The Vets followed his announcement with a lengthy declaration in support of no amnesty. This was followed by the unseeing scolding of Ted Kennedy, who reprimanded the 33,000 Vets for being "narrow-minded" in rejecting Ford's proposal — in contradiction of his own previous militancy against a voluntary army. The body of the official statement of no-amnesty put out by the VFW convention contains a section on the history of American amnesty.

1) There have been thirty-four separate incidents of amnesty in American history.

2) George Washington, in 1795, pardoned the tax rebels of the Whiskey Rebellion who agreed to obey the law.

3) President Truman, Xmas 1952, gave amnesty to "peacetime" deserters who had left their units between V-J Day and the outbreak of Korean hostilities, June 25, 1950.

4) After WWII, 28 months after V-J Day, Truman pardoned 1,523 out of 15,803 draft law violators whose cases came under a government review mechanism.

5) After WWI in 1924, President Coolidge gave amnesty to 100 deserters, who had deserted after the Nov. 11, 1918 armistice.

6) In 1933, Roosevelt granted amnesty to 1,500 persons convicted of espionage act and draft law violations during WWI (15 years before), who had completed their sentences.

7) All of President Lincoln and Johnson's amnesties were conditional, and pardoned Confederates if they swore loyalty to the Union — a move to deplete the Dixie army. Also pardoned were Union deserters if they returned to their units to serve out a period of time equal to their original period of enlistment.

8) President Lincoln's government dealt with draft resisters in New York City where many rioted in March of 1863. Mr. Lincoln's Federals put down the riots with between 500 and 1000 dead.

9) It was not until 1898 that the Universal Amnesty Act removed all disabilities against all former Confederates.

From these facts, the VFW's conclude that there has never, following any American war, been a general amnesty for draft dodgers — only for peacetime deserters.

A libertarian can observe two things from these facts. There has been a long and populated tradition of resistance to conscription and personal involvement in war among Americans. And, considering the undermining of the US Constitution by a series of Presidents who engaged our citizens in military combat without Congress declaring war, the US was at peace during the Viet Nam years, so there is precedent for amnesty in this case.

Paul Beaird  
Chairman, Alaska LP  
Kodiak, AK

## AMNESTY

Laws are, or should be, enunciations of principles of justice and should be applied equally to all persons. I support unconditional amnesty for all draftees and draft evaders. I also object to the Nixon pardon. However, most persons discussing these issues today are not demonstrating concern for principles of law and justice, but the evasion of these principles. Perhaps, as a