

# DGOC

SEPTEMBER 2011 #46

## LIBERTOPIA 2011

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# ANYTHING PEACEFUL



## & VOLUNTARY

@

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DGC magazine

ISSN 2159-791X

# CONTENTS



**Five Principles of Libertopia 4**

**Mission of Libertopia 6**

**Law Without Big Brother by Gary Chartier 10**

**Living Without Money is an Act of Community 12**

**Libertopia Comedians 14**

**You Own Your Own Mind by Sharon Presley PhD 16**

**The Monopoly-Breakers by Paul Rosenberg 20**

**Libertopia 2011 Speakers 22**

**Murdering the Group, Saving Individuals 26**

**A Poet Speaks of Liberty by Butler Shaffer 28**

**Libertopia Rocks 2011 Bands 30**

**Concerts by the Bay Line Up 34**

**Libertopia Films 36**

**Libertopia Sovereign Awards 38**

**Libertopia 2011 Schedule 40**

**Exhibitors pages 45 - 47**

# Five Principles of Libertopia

**All actions should be peaceful and voluntary**

The axiomatic and first principle of Libertopia is that all forms of coercion and violence are unacceptable.

## **Honor the self**

Each one of us is unique in the universe, endowed with free will, reason and dignity. Celebrate and radically express your unique individuality.

## **Rule yourself**

As free and sovereign individuals, we rule ourselves and are totally responsible for all our actions.

## **Live and let live**

Radical tolerance and acceptance of different lifestyles and life choices. Embrace our diversity and uniqueness.

## **Community of Spontaneous Order**

Allow order to arise by pursuing happiness, respecting each others sovereignty, and engaging in peaceful and voluntary interactions -- exploring, experimenting, discovering, creating, innovating, sharing, selling, trading, gifting, prospering and loving one another.

LIBERTOPIA

# If George III Had Internet Surveillance:

Thomas Jefferson  
Died July 3, 1776

*After-action report:*

*The Office of Colonial Security had monitored suspicious transmissions between one Thomas Jefferson, who is described as studious and secretive, and at least a dozen other radical extremists, over a period of months. Finally, on July the second, they agreed together to execute their plan. Acting selflessly to preserve our way of life, agents of the Colonial Security Administration risked their lives storming the homes of the traitors and arrested them. However, the author of their extremist manifesto, Jefferson, after apparently setting his home afire with oil lamps, died in the resulting conflagration. All known copies of the manifesto were destroyed in the above-mentioned actions.*

*Privacy is a  
tragic thing  
to lose.*



**\*Professional Strength Internet Anonymity\***

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# Mission of Libertopia

**Our mission is to establish Libertopia:** a voluntary community based on freedom & peace; where each individual's sovereignty and dignity are respected and all forms of aggression, coercion and violence are unacceptable. Until then, we will hold an annual Libertopia festival: a three day (and eventually a week long) celebration where we share ideas, explore, experiment, discover, innovate, trade, gift, create or perform art, spread the love and rejoice in our diversity and unique individuality.

**L**ibertopia is an annual festival of peace, freedom, music, community and ideas that will change the World.

It is a unique experience...a 3 day celebration of our individuality and diversity packed with renowned speakers, workshops, panels, parties, banquets, music, film, art, literature, commerce, exhibitors, themed camps, performers, social networking and much more!

It's more than a conference...more than a festival...it's our future! Why? It leaves behind the least attractive aspects of conference and festivals while encouraging a big participatory element. Libertopia also is more than "libertarian." It's voluntaryist to the core – bypassing and transcending politics completely. Finally, it's kind of a model for us and a starting-point for a society of the future. It's a kernel of something we'll need more of very soon – especially as we watch coercive institutions begin to implode one by one. And that's part of the reason we chose San Diego as our home this year. It's in the belly of the beast. But in spite of that (or because of it?), San Diego has become a real hub of voluntaryism. In the Hillcrest neighborhood, for example, there's a place called Café Libertalia, where

a group called Mises West studies the Austrian School of economics and free-market anarchism every Monday night. So hold your calendars open for the Libertopia on the weekend of October 21, 22, and 23 at Humphrey's Half Moon Inn and Suites.

## Libertopia Is a Rejection of Politics...

Many of us began our libertarian journey by becoming activists in the Libertarian Party or related

efforts to promote a free society. These were all "small-government" or minarchist groups. But many of us continued to evolve, and we often felt left out of mainstream gatherings. We took the ideas of Murray Rothbard to their logical conclusion – the non-aggression axiom and the concept that "it's my life and no one can own me." We stopped participating in politics. We became full-blown voluntaryists, agorists, and anarchists – and we mean anarchists in the etymological sense of "no rulers." Maybe "private-property anarchists" is another way of looking at it. Either way, we respect the idea of property. That starts with our own bodies and



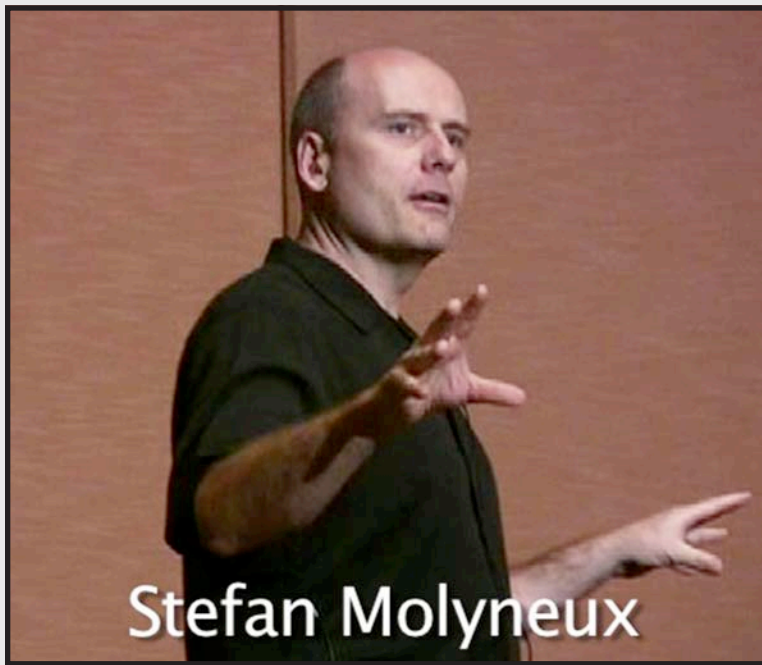
Peter Thiel speaking at Libertopia 2010

extends to other things acquired through peaceful, voluntary means. In other words, we engage in activities that promote the kind of life we cannot find in statism or even minarchism. We are interested in hard-core agorism, but we welcome the political activists into our fold and hope that they, too, become inspired by the vision of ethical anarchism. Libertopia is a big tent, and we welcome everyone.

That includes our brothers and sisters who have become cynical about politics, people who are looking for answers, even those who are politically active non-libertarians. After all, we all began our journey somewhere, and Libertopia will be a fine start for anyone!

## Libertopia Is More Than a Conference...

We like conferences. They're great for showcasing the vast talent in our community. And Libertopia will have some of the leading advocates of freedom – Stefan Molyneux, Bill Buppert, Gary Chartier, David Freidman, Angela Keaton, Roderick Long, Jim Peron, Sharon Presley, Sheldon Richman, Butler Shaffer, and many more. Take a look at our Speakers page. But after plenty of feedback from last year, we decided to enhance that whole “conference” concept by keeping the presentations



short and sweet and including more time for questions and answers and breakout groups to explore issues in greater depth, as well as more panels and more workshops.

## Libertopia Is More than a Festival

The whole festival thing makes Libertopia more participatory, and it opens our event up to vendors and lifestyle exploration – much different than a conference. There will be performers on the great Humphrey's stage. Humphrey's Concerts by the Bay has hosted some of the great musical acts like Stevie Wonder, Aretha Franklin, and Ringo Starr. And now it will play host our “greats.” It's a place for celebrating individual dignity that is free of coercion and state violence. And remember: it's on private property, and the owners know exactly what we're all about, and they want us there! And that does not mean

we're going to trash the place. We respect private property, and they know it! But it also means we have peaceful good hosts that respect us and our desire to share ideas, experiment, discover, innovate, trade, gift, and perform. The weather is always great in San Diego, and that's a big difference from the Burning Man thing, which is held in a state-controlled desert in the blistering heat of late summer, where you feel the heavy presence of

para-military cops lurking in dark costumes with a mindset to match. You could fry an egg on a rock at Burning Man! In contrast, Humphrey's Half Moon Inn and Suites is a stone's-throw from the water, and it's a garden of indoor-outdoor living. The nude beaches (Black's Beach), parks, fabulous Mexican dining, and zoo are all close by. And the late-October weather is perfect in San Diego, with 70-degree-ish temperatures by day and nights in the 60s. When you add in the participatory art and free zones, where niche groups can gather, it's going to be quite an experience!

## Libertopia Is the Kernel of a New Society...

We now have a critical mass of agorists out there - hard-core anarcho-voluntaryists who really get it. They reject the entire paradigm of

political violence. They understand that initiatory coercion can only lead to bad results, and they don't want to perpetuate it. They perceive a powerful link between respect for individuals and peace, prosperity, and freedom. Nobody knows how many of us there are, but maybe 20,000 in the United States. And 100,000 throughout the world. We share a vision, and it's time we started to "live what we are" - as residents of Libertopia. Maybe it's only a 3-day weekend at this point, but we want Libertopia to grow and evolve into a week-long event - and beyond. It's time to practice what we preach.

## **"Trading Man"... Because Every Movement Needs an Icon...**

Oh, and we have a symbol - an icon that will preside over the whole affair like a god. His name - drum roll! - is Trading Man. His effigy will be the focus of the weekend. He stands for our belief in voluntary trade, the quintessential act that creates a win-win situation for individuals and is beneficial for society. But instead of burning him alive like Joan of Arc as a scapegoat for our sins or incinerating him in pyro-maniacal delight like Burning Man, we're going to reach down deep into our soul of humanist values and auction him off to the highest bidder at the culmination of the weekend.

8 § **DGC Magazine** April 2010 Issue

Thor Halvorssen from Libertopia 2010



Someone is destined to take home the 2011 Trading Man, and we hope that someday, when we live in a free society, the 2011 Trading Man will be remembered as the talisman of our event - a kind of hope for what can be. So start saving your dollars for the god of trade - and not the kind of trade practiced by the banksters of Wall Street and D.C.!

## **Libertopia's Choice of San Diego...**

San Diego is in the belly of the beast, and it's easy to count the ways: U.S. Customs, the Border Patrol, and tax-slurping agents from the DEA and FBI infesting everything. There's a Marine base at Camp Pendleton and nuclear ships in the harbor. And the local media worship them. There are companies built from the ground up on surveillance and the military-industrial complex. But that's just it. Even in the belly of the beast, you have places like Café Libertalia and Mises West rising up to civilize the

statist barbarians. There are close to 100 hard-core free-market anarchists in the San Diego area. Every week, about 20 of them visit Café Libertalia to discuss Mises and economics. They've had tax-ins and debates with socialists. They even monitor cops at driver checkpoints, hold 9/11 Government Blowback Day events, and anti-voting protests that play havoc with election night politics. A good portion of these anarchists were formerly in the employ of the military. There's a lesson in that, and we think that Libertopia is the place to find out why it's happening here of all places.

## **Libertopia's Amenities...**

Before winter rolls in, Libertopia will be a chance to see some great speeches, films, and music. There will be an awards banquet that recognizes three individuals for their lifetime achievements in advancing the ideas of sovereign individuals, peace, freedom, and a voluntary society. We all share a belief in



free will, the value of reason, and the great power of love. So let's share it! It's going to be three days of lush surroundings, mental (and physical?) stimulation, and a chance to share with people who really get it – the whole voluntary thing. And it's a chance to live our philosophy if only for a few days. And hey – we got a great room-rate at a four-star resort. It's only \$109 per night! We're even having an early-bird special for people who want to become members of Libertopia. It's only a fraction of the cost of similar events, and with all that's going to happen here, make sure to reserve your place now!

## **Libertopia: The Time Is Now...**

Let's face it: governments are beginning to implode at all levels. They have murdered and taxed and spent their way into fiscal and moral bankruptcy, and they are losing their legitimacy. The incipient free society of Libertopia is just a start, but it's already available in how we communicate and gather news and opinions, especially on the Internet. The institutions of coercion are on the brink of failure, and there are now enough of us to step in and show people how to do it right – without politics and the violence that goes with it. And that's why Libertopia is important. We're the cure for this cancer of statism, and it's time to feed the cure. The socialists and conservatives have created this giant, ugly, imploding monster of a black hole that can no longer function without stepping all over itself. It's a mass

of contradictions, and the cracks are showing – big time! Just as the U.S.S.R. was here one day and gone the next, the United States and its propped-up Bride-of-Frankenstein corporations and privileged unions are next in line. Institutions based on coercion are inherently self-destructive – whether they are the openly dictatorial kind or the polite dishonest kind that hide behind hypnotic words like “democracy” and “republic.” They're collapsing of their own weight and insane laws and self-smothering inertia, and we need to replace them with something different. We need to start practicing what it's like to live in a free society – even if it's just for a weekend to begin with. We can build our Libertopia right next to the dystopia that surrounds us, and when the dystopia fails, we – not they – will be the organizing principle of the post-implosion society. We'll step in, and if we can pull this off, there will be no more tired re-runs of statism. It's up to the voluntaryists to show what the alternative looks like. Join us at Libertopia 2011. The time is now...

###

### **PayPal Explains It Announced the Decision to Launch Business in Russia by Mistake**

**Russians have been looking forward to an opportunity to use online retail stores at eBay for a while, but online payment company PayPal explained that it had announced the decision to launch business in Russia by mistake.**

American payment system PayPal does not plan to launch business in Russia starting from the end of September, said to CNews Arseny Rastorguev, a representative of the Grayling agency, citing PayPal press relations service. The Grayling agency is cooperating with the system.

Russia and Ukraine were mentioned in the list of new money transfer tariffs as new members by mistake, explained PayPal press office chief Marc Jaugey.

At the same time PayPal described Russia and Ukraine as “interesting markets which the company has been studying very carefully”. We are looking for ways to provide PayPal services in all countries where they are in demand, but it will take a while. Stay tuned, recommends Jaugey.

A week ago PayPal web site published new money transfer tariffs that will come into force on September 24. Russia and Ukraine featured there among PayPal destinations.

The PayPal's decision to start business in Russia would allow using online stores at eBay.

PayPal's appearance in Russia seemed long overdue. In 2006 the company introduced a Russian-language interface and started to accept payments from Russian credit cards. Up to this it was impossible to buy goods at the online stores operated by the system, including its parent company eBay.

Russia has one of the fastest growing e-payment markets in the world with the number of subscribers exploding over the last three years. August 30, 2011 C News <http://eng.cnews.ru/news/top/indexEn.shtml?2011/08/30/453281>

# LAW WITHOUT BIG BROTHER

by Gary Chartier

Lots of people seem to think they need Big Brother to tell them—or, at least, to tell other people—what to do. They have trouble envisioning a peaceful, voluntary society because they assume that someone needs to monopolize the use of force. Otherwise, they're afraid, life will be (in Thomas Hobbes's famous phrase) "solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short."

Let the skeptics know that law could be an integral aspect of life in a peaceful, voluntary society and they're likely to roll their eyes. Any entity, they might say, that does identify and enforce law just is a state. The fact is, though, that you can enforce law without being, or being indistinguishable from, a state.

What makes law without the state different? It's consensual. In a peaceful, voluntary society, people would be obligated by laws or legal systems to which they had actually consented.

It's part of the modern state's legitimating ideology that it rests on "the consent of the governed," but of course it doesn't: most people haven't even tried to consent to the state, and the fact that the state threatens to use force against the uncooperative means that no one

can really give voluntary consent to its authority.

By contrast, in a peaceful, voluntary society, people could choose to affiliate with various legal regimes. Some might be work-based. Some might be geographic. Some might be religious in nature. Some might be for-profit not-for-profit firms or cooperatives established specifically to provide legal services. The important thing is that someone could choose among them freely—agreeing to be a client of one (or more, since some might be quite specialized), and then, if things didn't work out, opting for an alternative. Accepting the authority of any of these legal regimes would be a matter of genuine consent. Agreements among regimes—agreements accepted consensually by the regimes' clients—would determine how disputes between people affiliated with different regimes were resolved.

Don't expect the skeptic to give up at this point, though. The idea of free consent, she may say, is the idea of consenting when you're not under duress—when whoever's seeking your consent isn't violating your rights and isn't threatening to do so. But the law determines what people's rights are. In the law's absence, the idea of voluntary consent is meaningless.

The problem is with the skeptic's second premise. Of course the law determines what people's legal rights are: that's a tautology. But the notion of voluntary consent isn't a narrowly legal notion; it's a moral notion. And people can be morally entitled to rights whether any legal system acknowledges those rights or not—that's why we can talk about just and unjust laws. Obviously,

there will be disagreements about what those moral rights are, but we can reasonably judge that, as long as what we take to be people's genuine moral rights are being respected, they can give truly voluntary consent to a legal regime's authority.

A peaceful, voluntary society would be a great society, but it wouldn't be a perfect society: some people—call them outlaws—might try to engage in aggression against others, and some of them might try to do so while not affiliated with any legal regime. Perhaps the skeptic will allege that a regime's use of force to defend against outlaws is unjust because they haven't consented to its authority directly or indirectly. But the problem here is, again, the failure to remember the importance of moral rights. People can consent to a variety of specific legal arrangements, but their moral rights provide the backdrop for their consent. Moral rights aren't created by the law, so it's just to defend them whether or not the person seeking to violate them has consented to a legal rule explicitly protecting them: moral rights don't depend for their existence on the consent of their would-be violators.

Law plays a useful role in maintaining social order and facilitating people's peaceful, voluntary cooperation. So there's no reason to think it would be absent from a peaceful, voluntary society. In such a society, however, it would be rooted, not in the arbitrary authority of Big Brother, but in people's genuinely free consent.

Gary Chartier will be speaking at Libertopia Festival 2011 in San Diego

ONE  
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# Living Without Money is an Act of Community

by Matthew Slater

As a monetary activist, I shun state-sanctioned-commercial-debt money (like the US dollar or Euro) as much as possible. Generally, individual actors making economic protests against state-sanctioned money are little more effective than fish protesting the water. That's because money and the economy are functions of community, and it is only in partnership with their communities that the politically disenfranchised ninety nine per cent can claim back their lives from wage slavery and the permanent shortage of employment. So I'm living by building software for community money; I depend on gifts and occasionally sympathy to meet my basic needs. In monetary terms, I'm a beggar, but in spirit, I'm a superempowered, superconnected and self-determined individual!

## Negative Outlook

While governments tell us to brace for austerity, they are not acknowledging the full extent or nature of the problem we face. While its true that bailing out the banks was very expensive, what most people don't realise is that the commercial debt-money system has catastrophic failure built-in, once resource extraction fails to keep pace with interest repayments on an expanding money supply. So while people are angry at governments for

socialising losses of private corporations, they are not being educated that these debts will never be paid off, that big banks are now effectively able to demand as much interest on national, and personal debts, as we can bear, forever. Therefore, the national currencies themselves have become instruments of servitude and serfdom.

Remember that the banks extract their dues through interest payments on things like mortgages and overdrafts, through taxes spent on managing government debt, as well through derivative speculation and financial services such as pensions. To banks, the little people are but cells in the matrix generating wealth; money, interest, and the stock market are the mechanisms that transfer that value to where banks want it, to them.

So every time you pay tax, interest, bank charges, card fees, or enter into agreements such as for pensions, you are entering into relationship with a vampire squid, as Rolling Stone reporter Matt Taibbi called investment bank giant Goldman Sachs. And consider that most industry is run on credit, a significant portion of the cost of goods is in fact interest. Big banks have a hand in everyone's till. That's why the Age of Leisure expected since the industrial revolution never seems to arrive.

So is it part of the social contract that we each pay an unreasonable tithe to the banking industry?

Effectively, Yes.

And is it even possible to avoid such extractive relationships in a so-called free society?

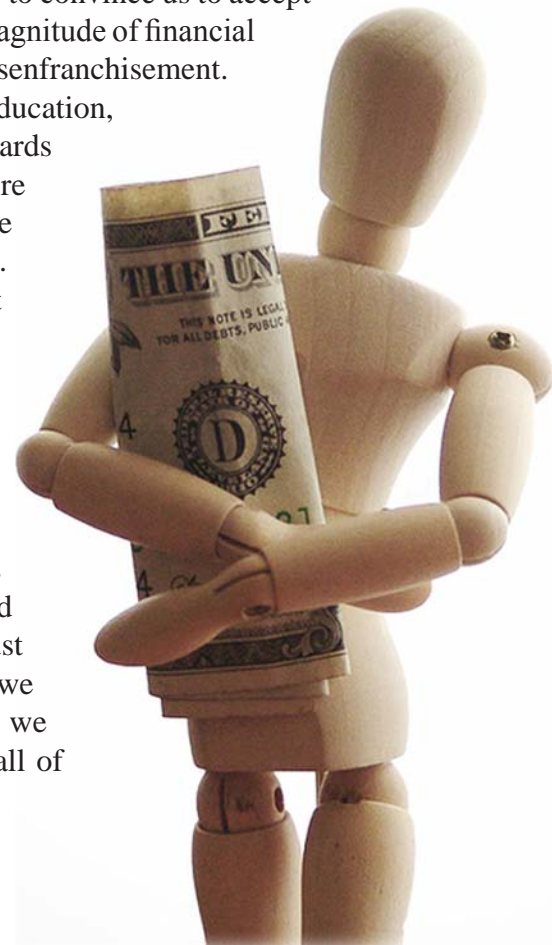
It is just about legal, but not very convenient. I don't earn money, or own property, or a car. In addition I have no phone or bank accounts. Consequently I have to depend on gifts of food, shelter, hardware, cash and flights. This is precarious, but the more people turn from parasitic pyramidal structures, the more they must share and trust one another.

## A Range of Solutions

This sharing and trusting takes different forms depending how many people are involved. Here is my list from small, radical bottom up solutions to larger, more moderate top down solutions.

- **Informal sharing:** Using reciprocal gifting and sharing of resources like accommodation, equipment, transport, and cooking and childcare, networks of individuals can improve their wellbeing and ‘work’ less. Taking it to the extreme however, in a commune, can be a lot of work, and many projects don’t survive the intensity!
- **Villages:** Villages can formalise their sharing networks, engage in group-buying with the help of a premises for redistribution. They can consider medium scale projects with land ownership and energy generation. Once the community is too big for everyone to communicate directly, and trust, everyone else, software can be very useful, especially when it includes accounting tools. (This is what I am making). Accounting helps to monitor where resources are coming from and going to, and to ensure that, on some scale, people are giving and getting in fair proportion. It also indicates where hard currency expenses could be internalised by investing in, say, a windmill, or bakery.
- **Industries / Businesses:** There are already well established ways for business to save money by using credit clearing with their peers instead of direct payments. Especially in the US there are many legal business to business (B2B) barter networks supporting trade and helping with taxes. By joining such networks, business can reduce their dependence on debt money, as well effectively paying in-kind when dealing with other local traders. Bigger industries sometimes use a technique called Counter trade for international trade, which protects them from currency fluctuations and reduces need for cash. See the International Reciprocal Trade Association to learn more about about business bartering.
- **Cities:** At this level though the city government can take the courageous step of accepting a local currency for tax, and spending it, all of which adds up to less debt money in circulation and less vulnerability to central government redistribution. One town is Austria, Voralberg, is doing this! There’s also room for 100% reserve saving/lending institution like the JAK bank or building societies. Note that such insitutions can never be as profitable as banks, which have the power to create as much money as they can lend.
- **States / regions:** In the US, the newly formed Public Banking Institute is working to form State owned banks similar to the Bank of North Dakota (BND). North Dakota is now the most solvent of all states due in large part to BND. The bank, I understand, still produces debt money, but the debt is owned by the state, not leveraged, funnelled into private hands and gambled in the derivatives market.
- **Countries:** Most elected leaders and those in authority do not understand the nature of money. The few who talk sense, such as Ron Paul in US and Douglas Carswell in UK are excluded from the mainstream discussion. There are many possible ways for countries to move forward so decision making is hard, even for the opposition! National level options include public banking, returning to the gold standard, or defaulting on national debts and rebooting national currencies. Working at this level, one shouldn’t expect great results in one lifetime. Banking is the most powerful lobby of all.

The so-called austerity measures will last until the ‘too big to fail’ banks are persuaded not to maximise their profits and political power, which won’t be any time soon. The disaster being sold to us as the financial crisis is a grand narrative to convince us to accept the next order of magnitude of financial vampirism and disenfranchisement. Whether through education, medicine, credit cards or mortgages, more and more people are falling into debt. Bankruptcy is not the relief it used to be. And debt is the ball and chain that forces us to work to get money, because the state only recognises debts denominated in money. We must disengage while we still can! I say, we need to be trying all of the above.



# LIBERTOPIA COMEDIANS



**MARK  
WHITNEY**

Mark Whitney is a writer, producer, performer, serial entrepreneur and career citizen. Since 2006, Mark has toured his continually updated, award-winning, 90 minute one-man show across the North American Independent Theatre Circuit.

In response to the dearth of meaningful stage time, Mark founded the San Diego Comedy Co-op in an old warehouse where Dreamworks used to be. He produced nearly 500 free shows for the community over the course of three years. Co-op regulars included Wyatt Cenac (Comedian & Writer/correspondent, The Daily Show), Natasha Leggero (Comedian & Judge, Last Comic Standing) and Anthony Jeselnik (Comedian & Writer, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon). Mark closed the Co-op when he turned pro.

Mark won the San Francisco Comedy Convention for stand-up comedy, the D.C. Theatre Festival, Iowa Theatre Festival, Boulder International Theatre Festival, the Minnesota Theatre Festival and the San Francisco Theatre Festival. "Fool" was an Official Selection of the New York International Theatre Festival and the Midtown International Theatre Festival, respectively.

Mark also has a shelf full of public speaking awards.

Critics liken him to Mark Twain, Lewis Black, Rodney Dangerfield, Tim Allen, Michael Moore, Mort Sahl, Mike Daisey, and fellow Rhode Island native, Spalding Gray.



# SINDI SOMERS

In 2011, Sindi has opened for Chris Clobber (Malcolm in the Middle, Comedy Central), Bob Golub (Goodfellas, The Tonight Show), Mike Ivy (The Sarah Silverman Show), Mark Christopher Lawrence (The Pursuit of Happyness, “Big Mike” on NBC’s Chuck) and Craig Shoemaker (The Lovemaster).

Sindi has also shared the stage with talented comedians Patrick DeGuire (Comedy Central), Monique Marvez (Original Latin Divas of Comedy), Christina Pazsitzky (Chelsea Lately!), Dat Phan (Last Comic Standing, Comedy Central) and names to be on future marquees.

She also loves music and has performed comedy sharing the bill with original musical artists, Celia St. Croix, Katie Dwyer, LoveMason, Lenny Morris, Joe Nafziger, Maura Rosa, Bosen & Suede, Cyanide Vogue, The Scott West Band , Robin Wilbanks and many others.



## SIMON BLACKTHORN

Simon Blackthorn has been doing stand-up at several venues with BrewHaHa Entertainment, and at other clubs in San Diego such as The Comedy Store and The Comedy Palace. His humor is political and philosophical and is considered to be in a jugular vein. See his facebook page <http://www.facebook.com/simon.blackthorn>

This article originally appeared in The Truth Seeker

If you don't own your own mind, who does? Sounds like a simple enough question, right? Each of us owns our own minds, right? Not necessarily. Many individuals do in fact operate as if their minds belong to someone else. Whether out of a desire for social approval, fear of being different, or just plain mental laziness, many individuals let other people decide what their opinions are, how to act, what values to hold—all by default. They uncritically accept the values taught by their parents, teachers, churches, or peers, rarely questioning or asking whether these ideas make sense. They don't in fact own their own minds—their minds are owned by others.

Owning your own mind means making sense of the world based on your own observations and experiences rather than just depending on the word of others. It means trusting your own ability to make judgments, even if they contradict what others say. It means acting in accordance with these judgments, even if you sometimes make mistakes. It means knowing this truth: it's better to make your own mistakes than someone else's.

Owning your own mind doesn't mean simply being contrary or reacting against the wishes of your parents or peers. If we reject what our parents, teachers or church have taught us simply because they say something is right, this doesn't make us independent thinkers. That's just what psychologists call "anti-conformity" rather than non-conformity. It's still letting someone else dictate what you are thinking—by reaction. Making up your own mind is not a reaction, it is an action.

If you're reading The Truth Seeker, you've already questioning some of what you've been told to believe. But the hidden influence of socialization, social norms, social role expectations, the media, and the culture all have more power than most people realize. In the US, where individualism is-, at least in theory, though not in fact, prized, many of us have the conceit that everything we are is a result of our own efforts and thinking. We imagine ourselves to be more self-made than we usually are.

Applying some of the basic principles of critical thinking can help us to see whether we are the real

# You Own Your Own Mind

by Sharon Presley PhD



owners of our minds or are in fact letting others tell us what to think. Two relevant principles here are “analyze your own assumptions and biases,” and “examine the evidence and consider alternatives.”

Readers of The Truth Seeker have probably already questioned assumptions about religion that parents taught them but what about other areas? Here are some examples of areas that often go unquestioned or only superficially analyzed, even among well-educated and thoughtful people.

#### Political views:

- Do you have the same political views as your parents or your spouse or mate because you’ve never really examined or questioned these ideas or just out of mental laziness? Do you know what your political beliefs are?
- Have you carefully examined or read a variety of different points of view or philosophies and then decided which one makes the most sense to you or did you just stumble haphazardly into the one that other people with your life style advocate?
- Can you explain the principles or values that lead you to your current views without using lame, vague or tiresome cliches learned from others? When did you form these views? How long has it been since you re-examined them in the light of new evidence?

#### Social norms

- Do you dress like everyone else because you don’t want to look different or “odd” or because you fear social disapproval? Perhaps you’re a man who always wears white, beige or blue shirts because they’re “safe.” Perhaps you’re a woman who dresses conservatively in “sensible” shoes when you secretly long to wear flamboyant purple gypsy skirts. Or perhaps you try to look different just to be different. Do you wear nose rings and purple hair to be shocking? What do you really like?
- Do you act in certain ways that you think you “should” because “what would the neighbors think?” Neatly trimmed and clipped regulation lawn instead of more practical native plants? Better not have that Buddha statue in the back yard because...
- Do you fear speaking up and expressing your own view because you don’t want to

be embarrassed or you’re afraid of social disapproval? Maybe you don’t speak up when your co-workers tell racist jokes because you don’t want to “make waves,” even though you think it’s wrong. Maybe you go along with your friends’ views on affirmative action because you don’t want to appear to be “politically incorrect.” Or maybe you say things that you don’t even believe just to be outrageous and annoying.

#### Social role expectations: Scripts we’ve all been taught

- Do you fall into certain gender stereotypical patterns because there’s some you’ve never questioned or because it’s just easier than changing? If you are a woman, do you let your mate make the important decisions? Do you compromise more than him to “keep the peace?” Do you view your career as less important than his? Did you change your last name to his without thinking when you got married? If you are a man, do you weasel out of housework, even though your mate works outside the home too, because housework is “women’s work”? Do you get your own way more than she does because you assume you are the head of the household? Where did you get these ideas? Are they fair?
- If you are a parent, have you given long and careful thought to your childrearing methods or just done things basically the same way your parents did? Maybe you spank first instead of discussing or explaining why the behavior is unacceptable. Maybe you automatically give your children gender-stereotypical toys (i.e., guns for boys, dolls for girls).
- In a doctor-patient or expert-client relationship, do you meekly accept their advice even when you’re not sure it’s appropriate? Do you ask about the potential side-effects of prescribed medications? Do you ask second opinions, look for further information, and consider alternatives so that you can make a well-informed decision of your own?
- When you read or listen to the news, do you just accept the media’s interpretations (except maybe on a few issues you feel particularly strongly about)? Do you accept the opinion of those you agree with politically or ideologically without looking at the issue or evidence for yourself? Are you politically correct or incorrect as a knee-jerk reaction? Do you read political



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points of view beside your own? Automatically agreeing with Gloria Steinem just because you're a feminist or Rush Limbaugh just because you're a conservative or Skeptical Inquiry just because you're a skeptic is letting them tell you how to think. No one, no matter how much you agree with their ideology, is always right.

The above are just a few of the areas important to question and analyze if you want to own your own mind. Here are some ways that you can strengthen or maintain your intellectual property lines.

- Cultivate a sense of self-worth. Keep in mind your special talents. Nourish a secret "inner core" of self that cannot be violated. If you feel good about yourself, you'll not be as vulnerable to manipulation, pressure and emotional appeals by others.
- Know what your values are. Develop and maintain a sense of commitment to principles that are important to you. Understand why they are important. Have a sense of purpose in your life. If you know what you stand for, others can't exploit or pressure you as easily.
- Build your critical thinking skills. Practice analyzing and discussing arguments, looking at the pros and cons of important issues. Build creative arguments and counter-arguments. Look below the surface of important issues. Don't jump to hasty conclusions.
- Read diverse opinions from different kinds of sources. Don't just read what you agree with. Be as well-informed about opinions you disagree with as your own. Analyze the pros and cons of these opinions. Be open to the possibility of changing your opinions.
- When watching TV news or reading a newspaper, remember to ask questions and be critical of what you see or hear. Be more aware of what the media selectively reports, distorts, and leaves out. Remember that the media don't represent "the truth," only certain perspectives. Read alternative press coverage of events.
- Teach yourself to watch out for persuasive manipulation and tricks in advertising and news reporting. The media is full of tricks that critical thinking writers call "slanters" ( i.e., innuendo, hyperbole) and "pseudoreasoning" (i.e., ad hominem, red herring ). Read a book on critical thinking.

- Take time to think about your bias and assumptions. Be honest with yourself. Don't make excuses for assumptions that make you uncomfortable if you stop to analyze them. Ask yourself hard questions, i.e., what is your least favorite ethnic group? Why do you feel that way?
- If you have trouble being assertive or are overly timid or passive, find an assertiveness training group, a counselor with a background in such training, or at least read a book on assertiveness training. In a non-threatening situation, practice using the techniques you learn so you won't feel so awkward or timid when you really need to stand up for what you believe in
- If you lack self-confidence or have excessively negative attitudes, fears, or anxieties that make you vulnerable to pressures from your peers or others, seek professional counseling, or at least seek advice from an appropriate book. Books based on cognitive therapy usually offer sensible and effective techniques that can help you change negative or irrational beliefs.
- Practice going against social rules or conventions when no harm will occur as a result of breaking them. For example, dress differently than you normally do or differently than a social group you participate in, play devil's advocate in your social or political group. You may find out that the consequences of being different are not as catastrophic as you imagine. Even if you get flak, it's a psychologically stretching exercise.
- Have a dream or your own self-chosen goals. Don't just settle for what you "should" do or what's the practical thing to do if your mind (and heart) is telling you to follow a dream that's meaningful to you. Make your life what you want it to be, not what others think it should be.

Owning your own mind isn't necessarily easy. We live in a world that wants us to conform and obey, that wants to own our minds. By applying critical thinking, we can put up the mental property lines and keep the mind thieves out.

<http://www.sharonpresley.com/spnet/ownmind.html>

"I am convinced that no other libertarian organization has distributed as many libertarian ideas of such high quality to so many people as Laissez Faire Books has done over the years. To be a part of that is to be a part of something very important." -- Sharon Presley on DailyObjectivist.com

# The Monopoly-Breakers

by Paul Rosenberg

It has become increasingly clear over recent years that there are two real forms of business in the modern West:

1. The small, medium, and large businesses that thrive by traditional, free market actions: Providing quality products, paying attention to the needs of their customers, adapting to gain better results, and so on.
2. Mega-corp businesses that work to gain monopoly situations, which allows them to escape competition and reap large profits.

It is, of course, the association with government-provided force that makes number two feasible. And, of course, such businesses can be relied upon to return a share of their profits to the political actors who make them possible. (And, yes, this corporate/government relationship is most definitely fascist.)

Really, we could call these the *honest* economy and the *coerced* economy.

The coerced economy seeks the forcible exclusion of competition and relies upon the state to provide the necessary muscle. I think most of us are familiar with examples of this, such as Disney preventing anyone else from selling a Mickey Mouse image for over 80 years now, and big pharmaceutical firms spending nearly all of their research money on new drugs that they can protect with patents, very often replacing superior compounds whose patents have expired. This is the model the mega-corps pursue, day in and day out.

## THE GREATEST MONOPOLY

The greatest monopoly, of course, is the one that we are facing-off against: The currency monopoly. I'll pass on the details of this arrangement – since so many readers at DGC are already very well informed about them – but we should keep clear in our minds that



fiat currencies are abusive monopolies far beyond the worst nightmares of the anti-trust crowd of a century ago. In fact, one of the great obstacles we face in explaining this situation to people is the fact that it is so large – it is simply too huge to face. Accepting it as true almost requires that we identify ourselves with the role of David, and the central banking cartel as Goliath.

Personally, I've found it useful to use a few quotes when explaining this idea, to give people second and third sources – it simply sounds too alien to them, and they need some assurance. Here are the ones I have found useful:

*The study of money, above all other fields in economics, is one in which complexity is used to disguise truth or to evade truth, not to reveal it.*

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

*The process by which banks create money is so simple that the mind is repelled.*

-- John Kenneth Galbraith

*The Federal Reserve Act lets us print all we'll need. And it won't frighten the people. It won't look like stage money. It'll be money that looks like real money.*

-- Treasury Secretary William H. Woodin, March 7, 1933

*When a bank makes a loan, it simply adds to the borrower's deposit account by the amount of the loan. It does not take this money from anyone else's deposit; it was not previously paid in to the bank by anyone. It's new money, created by the bank for the use of the borrower.*

-- Robert B. Anderson, Secretary of the Treasury, Eisenhower administration

## OUR ALLIES

The one happy development in our struggle with Goliath is that we are gaining allies. Here are the biggest allies:

- 1. Precious metals dealers.** We've always had the gold and silver dealers on our side. Even though most of them still know nothing of digital gold currencies, they are quite interested in buying and selling physical gold, and are essentially fighting the same war, albeit on a different field.
- 2. Gold, silver and mine investors.** Since the central banking cartels create money from nothing, gold is, by nature, their great enemy. Accordingly, they have worked long and hard to keep gold prices down and to scare people away from protecting their wealth with it. Personally, I suspect that they go out of their way to not only suppress the price, but to create volatility, in order to scare people away. So, this growing group of people is our natural ally.
- 3. Ron Paul supporters.** The wonderful surprise of the 2008 political theater was Ron

Paul, lecturing on the Federal Reserve Bank, to large crowds of young people. And it seems that we will be treated to the same with the present political season. These people – of whom there are many – are also our natural allies. If I owned a digital gold company, I would be going out of my way to reach and teach these people.

## OUR PROSPECTS

I had a publisher who used to say, it's easy to look good when your competitors are idiots. In a similar way, our prospects are looking up, not only because of our superior products and growing pool of allies, but because the cartels are self-destructing.

So, we remain a tiny David facing a huge and well-armed Goliath, but we just got a few extra stones for our pouch, and it seems that Goliath has caught some type of flu.

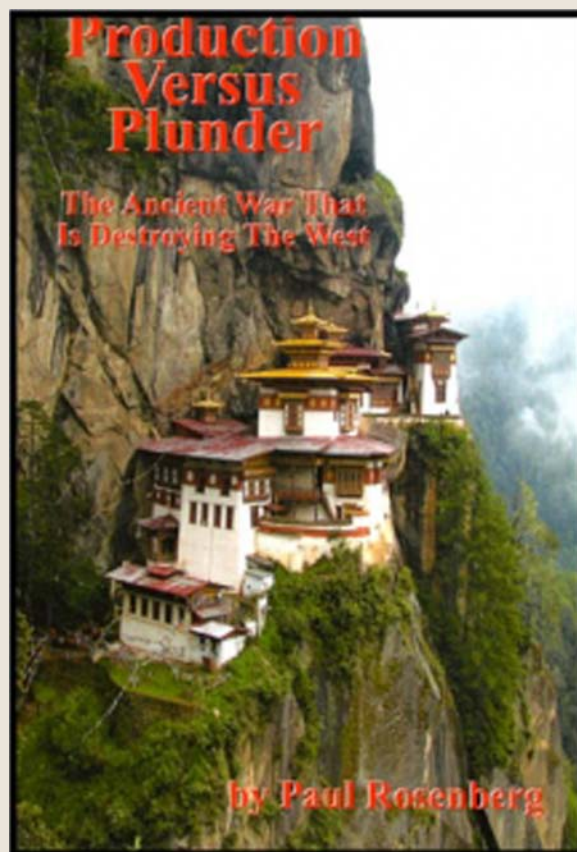
Paul will be speaking at  
Libertopia 2001 in San Diego

He is the author of

*Production Versus Plunder*

and other books. You can find his work at

<http://www.ascolibooks.com/vera-verba/index.html>



## 2011 Libertopia Speakers



Stefan Molyneux, Master of Ceremonies, Blogger, essayist, author, and host of the Freedomain Radio series of podcasts

<http://www.freedomainradio.com/>

Tom W. Bell, Professor, Chapman University, School of Law,

<http://ssrn.com/author=183716>



Jeff Berwick, Entrepreneur, Chief Editor of The Dollar Vigilante, and host of Anarchast.

<http://www.dollarvigilante.com/>

Scott Bieser, Illustrator and writer of comics, and a former computer game animator.

<http://www.bigheadpress.com/>

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scott\\_Bieser](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Scott_Bieser)



Richard Boddie, President of The Motivators,

<http://www.freestateproject.org/about/endorsements/boddie.php>

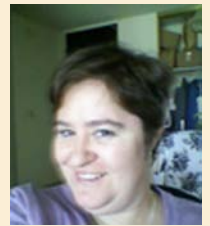
Peter Bos, V-50 innovator and entrepreneur.



Bill Buppert, Publisher and author of Zero Gov,

<http://zerogov.com/>

Penny Burbank, Objectivist/Libertarian, artist, Communications and Media Director for the Free Minds Institute, <http://www.freeminds2011.org>



Gary Chartier, Associate Dean of the School of Business and Associate Professor of Law and Business Ethics at La Sierra University at Riverside, CA. <http://liberalaw.blogspot.com/>

Michael Cindrich, Defense Attorney and Law Enforcement Against Prohibition Speaker.

<http://www.michaelcindrich.com/attorney-profile/>

<http://www.CopsSayLegalizeDrugs.com>

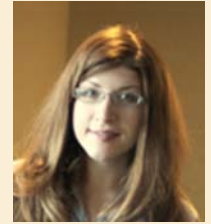


Sky Conway, Founder and Producer of Libertopia, Attorney, Indie Film Producer, Screenwriter, Entrepreneur, <http://www.libertopia.org>



Brian Doherty, Senior editor at Reason magazine and Reason.com.  
<http://reason.com/people/brian-doherty/all>

Desiree D. Dudley, Director of Development and Outreach  
 Foresight Nanotech Institute, <http://www.foresight.org>



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David Friedman, Professor of Law at Santa Clara University  
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Ryan William Nohea Garcia, Ambassador for The  
 Seasteading Institute, <http://seasteading.org/>

Tom Garrett, UCLA Graduate of Political Science, and  
 founder of the Society of Libertarian Entrepreneurs, 2010.  
<http://whoismises.com/>



Anthony Gregory, Research Analyst at The Independent  
 Institute and songwriter/musician  
[http://www.independent.org/aboutus/person\\_detail.asp?id=506](http://www.independent.org/aboutus/person_detail.asp?id=506)

Carla Gericke, President of the Free State Project and co-  
 host of Free Talk Live. <http://freestateproject.org/>



Debbie Harbeson, Suburban voluntaryist, author of “ Okay  
 Kids, Time for Bedlam “ <http://www.debbieharbeson.com/>

Joey Hill, Director of the Summum Bonum Learning Center,  
 Associate Producer Libertopia, Board of Directors Libertalia  
 Foundation, and host of Ask the Anarchist Podcast.  
<http://www.libertaliafoundation.org/index.php/summum/>  
<http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/>



Angela Keaton, Development Director for Antiwar.com, Producer of  
 Antiwar Radio, Vice Chair of the Board of Ladies of Liberty  
 Alliance. <http://www.antiwar.com/radio>

Chelsea Krafve, Students for Liberty Campus Coordinator  
 for Pepperdine University, <http://studentsforliberty.org/>





Paul Lemberg, Business growth strategist, turnaround expert, and author of Be Unreasonable, <http://paullemborg.com/blog>

Stacy Litz, Drexel University Campus Coordinator for Students for Liberty, <http://studentsforliberty.org/about/leadership/cc/stacy-litz/>



Jonathan Logan, Analyst and Consultant in Black IT Business, <http://lotnv.net>

Roderick T. Long, Professor of philosophy at Auburn University, president of the Molinari Institute, and an anarcho-libertarian blogger. <http://aaeblog.com>



Tarrin Lupo, Author, liberty activist & co-host of Wheels Off Liberty, <http://www.Lupolit.com>

Spencer MacCallum, Anthropologist, business consultant, and voluntaryist author. [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencer\\_MacCallum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spencer_MacCallum)  
**2011 Winner - Sovereign Award for Lifetime Achievement**



Perry Mason, Lawyer and Agora Arbitrator, <http://lotnv.net>

Jim Peron, Libertarian Author, <http://fr33minds.com/>



Sharon Presley. PhD, Social psychologist, Co-founder Laissez Faire Books, author, libertarian anarchist writer and activist. <http://www.sharonpresley.com/index.html>  
**2011 Winner - Sovereign Award for Lifetime Achievement**

Erika Perkins, Founder and owner or the San Diego FunSchoolers Unschool group (Putting the FUN in UN), owner of Entropy Squared Consulting Services, Writer, Speaker, Life Coach, Activist, Wife and Mom. <http://www.entropysquared.com> <http://www.funschoolers.com>



Robert Anthony Peters, Actor and Producer, <http://www.robertanthonypeters.com>

John Michael Rafanello Author and Founder of the "Wonder World Project" <http://wonderworldonline.com>







Sheldon Richman, Editor of The Freeman, published by Foundation for Economic Education, senior fellow at the Future of Freedom Foundation, <http://www.fff.org/aboutUs/bios/sxr.asp>

Larken Rose, Author of The Iron Web, Kicking the Dragon, How to be a Successful Tyrant, and The Most Dangerous Superstition. <http://www.larkenrose.com>



Paul Rosenberg, Author and entrepreneur, <http://www.ascolibooks.com/vera-verba/index.html>  
<http://www.cryptohippie.com/>

Bruce Rottman, Humanities teacher, Providence Hall, and Foundation for Economic Education lecturer. <http://www.fee.org/people/bruce-rottman/>



Bill Rounds, Attorney and author of the upcoming book 'How To Vanish'. <http://www.howtovanish.com/>

L.K. Samuels, Libertarian author featuring economic, social and political issues <http://www.freedom1776.com/>



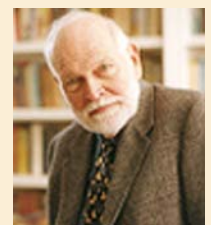
J. Neil Schulman, Award-winning Author/Filmmaker/Songwriter, <http://www.pulpless.com/jneil/>

Barry J. Schwartz, Ph.D., Medical educator, co-author and comedian, <http://www.facebook.com/barryinpb>



Butler Shaffer, Professor of Law at Southwestern Law School, [http://www.swlaw.edu/faculty/faculty\\_listing/facultybio/70115](http://www.swlaw.edu/faculty/faculty_listing/facultybio/70115)  
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Marc Stevens, Voluntaryist author, consultant and radio show host, <http://marcstevens.net/>

Fred Stitt, Architect, Director of the San Francisco Institute of Architecture, Director of the Free Minds Institute, <http://www.freeminds2011.org/>





Michael Strong, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Visionary Officer of FLOW, <http://www.flowidealism.org/Home/about-us.html>

Adam Summers, Policy analyst at Reason Foundation, <http://reason.org/staff/show/adam-summers.html>



Jesse Thomas, Co-owner of Cafe Libertalia and president of the Libertalia Foundation. <http://www.cafelibertalia.com/>

# MURDERING THE GROUP, SAVING INDIVIDUALS

Column by Stefan Molyneux, from July 25, 2006

Reprinted from Strike The Root

<http://www.strike-the-root.com/62/molyneux/molyneux1.html>

Once more, bombs rain down in the Middle East , Arabs and Jews hurl fire and murder children, the world turns pale with horror and empty words pour from televised heads' and as usual, the obvious and effective solution can never be discussed!

It's the same with immigration, the national debt, welfare, the war on terror and all the other state-driven and media-obscured questions of the day. Obsessed by details, blind to the obvious, we are like swimmers in shark-infested waters worrying about cramps.

The saddest thing is that we know exactly how to bring peace to the Middle East 'and everywhere else for that matter! Solving the problem of collective violence might have been a real head-scratcher in the Middle Ages, but it takes a truly modern education to pretend ignorance now!

It's embarrassingly simple, of course, but you'll wear out the batteries on your TV remote scanning for a mention of it anywhere.

What is the solution to the problem of collective violence? Why, just this:

Stop believing in groups!

'Groups' don't exist, any more than a 'forest' exists independently of the trees it describes. A 'Jew' doesn't exist. An 'Arab' doesn't exist; neither does 'Israel' or 'Muslim.' There are people and land and trees and sky. There are no 'groups.'

If people surrender their moral independence to some 'morally-superior' collective (or, more accurately, some madman claiming to speak for such a non-existent entity), then of course violence is the inevitable result. Irrational and collectivist moral absolutes are the fundamental WMDs of our species. Believing you are part of the 'master race' because you're Jewish, or the 'chosen of Allah' because you're Muslim, opens the path to blood, tears, flames and graves. Such delusions are both false and absolutist—the most deadly combination. Irrational moral ideals which must be enforced always end up murdering the innocent and the not-so-innocent en masse.

Beliefs that are irrational, required, universal and absolute will always put swords in the hands of men. Illogical and anti-empirical beliefs cannot be validated by external and objective factors. Two scientists who disagree on a theory can resolve their

dispute via the scientific method; they can defer to logic and reproducible experiments—they do not have to bomb each other into submission. Mathematicians can disagree over a proposition, but in the end it is not personal—it is not the dominance of one over the others, but of logic and proof over one, or all.

The free market runs on the same principle. 'Value' is not decided by committees, or leaders, but by individual decisions. If I think that my product is better than yours, I don't have to blow up your offices, just appeal to the consumer, the final arbiter. Consumers don't have to burn down a Ford plant if they prefer Volvos—individual decisions determine the value and success of each company.

In religion, politics and nationalism, things are very different, because no objective method exists to resolve disputes. Who can prove that 'Jewish' is better than 'Christian' or 'Muslim' or 'Buddhist'? How can these absolute and irrational fantasies ever be reconciled in reality? They are impervious to logic and experimentation. Universal truth is willed, not proven. This irrationality creates instability, hostility and the endless desire for expansion. The more collectivist a society becomes, the more expansionistic it becomes. Witness Israel, Islam and America.

The solution to the crisis in the Middle East is not easy, but it is simple—and the alternatives are stark. We must outgrow our addictions to the false gods of history—be they religious, political or national. Giving the modern equivalents of witch-doctors access to 21st Century weapons has become far too dangerous.

If we cannot break our addiction to our fantasies of collective virtue, the slaughter will only increase. And so we must say to the warring tribes of the Middle East—and indeed to the whole world:

'As long as there are Arabs and Jews and Americans and Iranians, our natural brotherhood remains drowned in bloody tribal fantasies. If we refuse to give up our gods and groups and leaders, we will forever live in war and fear and hatred. If we can find the strength to outgrow this madness, we may not all find heaven, but at least we will be free to escape hell. The solution to violence is not vanquishing our foes, but our own illusions.'

# A POET SPEAKS OF LIBERTY

BY BUTLER SHAFFER

This appeared on Lew Rockwell's web site ([www.lewrockwell.com](http://www.lewrockwell.com)) August 6, 2011  
Butler Shaffer teaches at the Southwestern University School of Law.

This past weekend, I spoke at a wonderful libertarian conference in Vancouver, BC. One of the speakers was a poet, Liliya Valis, who is originally from Lithuania. She has a forthcoming book of her poetry, *Freedom on the Fault Line*, from which she read the following. I reproduce them here with her permission, and eagerly await reading the rest of her poems when her book comes out in September. I have nothing to add, as her words eloquently speak for themselves.

## **POLITICS**

Politics is not politics.

It's what you think of me  
and how I see you;

it's family and the stranger;  
it's who will do the work  
and who will get the reward;

it's how we decide  
who owns what and  
who the thieves are;

it's how we act when  
we see a child broken  
from a beating or a dog  
chained and starved;

it's marriage and divorce  
and what we teach our  
children;

it's what we do when floods  
carry away our lives,  
when fire surrounds us.

No, politics is not politics;  
it's you and me  
and how we decide  
to live together;

it's love and hate  
and everything in between.

## **ACID**

If they throw acid in your face  
for going to school,  
it means the school  
can give you something  
to free you from the acid  
throwers.

## **QUALITY**

Equality is reassurance your  
neighbor will not get too far  
ahead of you.

The promise is we're all one  
but someone else decides  
which one.

Force is used to take from  
you to give to others not of  
your choosing.

Equality invites not doing  
more than others, until  
nothing works.

Plymouth Pilgrims lived it  
into discord and starvation.

It continues to inspire.  
Unmarked mass graves  
testify to its appeal.

Inequality is an open road.

A safe journey is not  
guaranteed.

No assurance is motivation  
for hard work and invention.

Want and envy are harnessed  
to produce what others  
desire.

Choice is virtue's tool:  
You cannot escape  
responsibility.

Equality is theft.  
Inequality is insecurity.

Fairness and equality  
are forever estranged.

Equality or freedom. The  
more you have of one, the  
less of the other.

## **CONFESSIONS OF A DO-GOODER**

Yes, me too, when I was  
young.

I worked to change the world,  
I mean – other people.  
I signed, demonstrated,  
marched, chanted and sang.  
I accused and forced.

I changed laws.  
I gave away money others  
earned.  
I secretly admired  
those who posed with rifles  
and even a few who bombed.  
Yes, I'm the university type.

Though things changed,  
they remained the same.  
New faces took over old  
roles.  
A different color got the knife  
in the back.  
Someone else always pays.  
I stepped back, confused.  
The more you force  
the worse things become.  
You have to be careful  
when you open the gate  
to someone seeking shelter  
when behind her stand  
armed intruders.

## **GRAY PLACE**

Choosing is rejecting  
– that's bullying now  
definitely verboten.

You can go to jail  
for not liking  
people who dislike you.

No more saying No  
to a stranger  
demanding your share.

You can tell jokes  
but only the ones  
everyone finds funny.

To offend is to cause  
rioting in the streets.  
Lawyers will file briefs.

If you report a fire  
the hoses will be turned  
on the real trouble – you.

You are to follow  
directions to a gray place  
where no one will know you.

## **FREEDOM**

What I don't have enough  
but others have too much

what comes attached to  
things everyone wants to  
avoid

what draws those who lack it  
to seize too much and wreck  
it

what is rejected when  
possessed and sought after  
when lost

what looks promising on  
paper but gets bloodied in the  
streets

what songs are made of  
and jails filled with

what requires laws for others  
but only advice for me.

[http://lewrockwell.com/  
shaffer/shaffer241.html](http://lewrockwell.com/shaffer/shaffer241.html)

August 6, 2011

*Butler Shaffer is 2011 Winner  
- Sovereign Award for Lifetime  
Achievement and the author  
of the newly-released In  
Restraint of Trade: The  
Business Campaign Against  
Competition, 1918–1938  
and of Calculated Chaos:  
Institutional Threats to  
Peace and Human Survival.  
His latest book is Boundaries  
of Order.*

# LIBERTOPIA ROCKS 2011 BANDS



## SO\*CAL VIBES

“So\*Cal Vibes” is SD’s hottest new band mixing a blend of Dancehall, Reggae, and Hip-Hop. Featuring the founding drummer of “SLIGHTLY STOOPID”, founding guitarist of “BIG MOUNTAIN” (as well as the former bassist), former guest vocalist of “THE ENGLISH BEAT” and former keyboardist of “EEK-A MOUSE”, the band puts on a great high energy dance party and is known to captivate the audience with its unique and original style!

<http://www.reverbNation.com/socalvibes>



## BOSEN ARROWS

Flowing and grooving melodic and bass lines, lyrics you can relate to, and goofy shenanigans! Influences: Alice in Chains, Days of the New, Jars of Clay, Pearl Jam, Red Hot Chili Peppers, VAST, Dave Mathews Band, Jason Mraz “People should know how important they are. I would love everyone to know that they matter more than they realize, and with love,

respect, and acceptance, so many things in this world would be so much better.”

<http://www.reverbNation.com/bosenarrows>

## PEACEMAKERS

Peacemakers Rock brings you rock for peace and freedom from their CD “Peacemakers”. Performing compositions by singer/guitarist Dan Litwin, and featuring Ralph Lindsay on bass and Todd Bouchard on drums, this high energy trio will belt out a message that’s increasingly needed in today’s world. Songs from the CD include “Wage Peace”, “Find a Way Out” and “The Power to Abuse.”

*Because real peacemakers don't rule...*



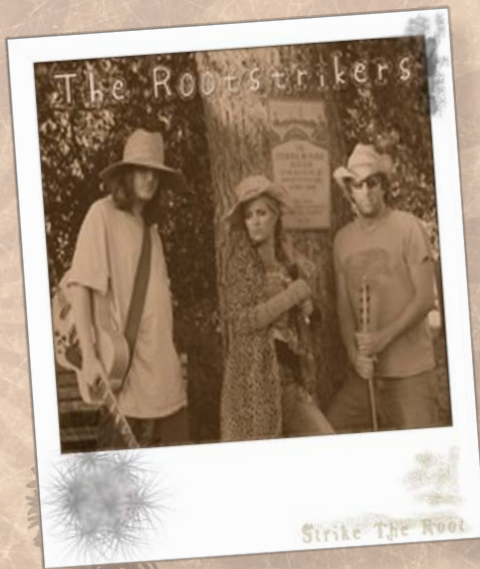
<http://www.PeacemakersROCK.com>



## THE OPTIMATORS

The spirit of roots reggae from yesteryear is the foundation and mainstay in the sound and soul of The Optimators, but a discerning openness creates breathing room which welcomes other styles to be tastefully woven into the fabric of their sound and statement. If one wants to hear something simultaneously classic and fresh; The Optimators bring it. If one wants to hear and feel messages of consciousness, social awareness, and positive direction; The Optimators bring that, too. Above all; The Optimators seek to be inclusive of all who want to feel what they do, and are inspired to move to it and move with it.

<http://www.reverbnation.com/theoptimators>



## ROOTSTRIKERS

This evolutionary band of renegade musical entrepreneurs is redefining musical performance. Rootstrikers perform a blend of rock, experimental, political and electronica music that stirs freedom of thought and brotherly love in the hearts of listeners.

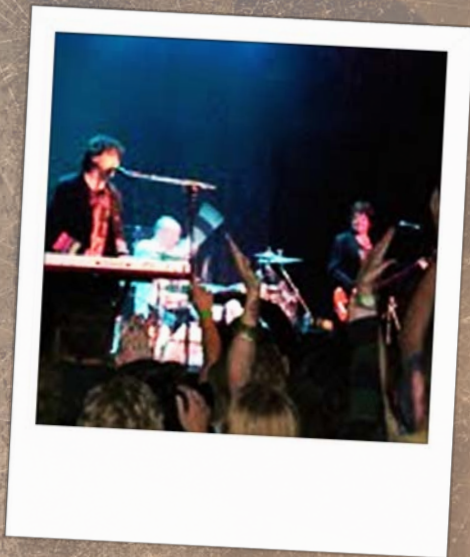
With Snowflake (aka Emily Richards) on vocals/keys, SpinningMerkaba (aka Jason Brock) on loops/bass/guitar, and Goldfish (aka Alex Goodwin) on guitar/effects, Rootstrikers moves audiences to dance -- and simultaneously, to think for themselves.



## ROTHBARD BAND

Hailing from the Alamo city in Texas, Rothbard is a rock band that strives to advance the message of liberty with thoughtful and creative music. Their repertoire consists of carefully selected covers integrated with originals that lament such absurdities as "Helicopter Ben" and "Too Big to Fail" welfare queens while other songs offer a full throated defense of freedom and give props to Ron Paul whose 2008 presidential campaign is largely responsible for inspiring lead singer David White to educate himself and others on the principles of liberty and start the band in the first place.

<http://www.burntrecords.com/rb/>



### SCOTT WEST BAND

Scott West was the #1 band on MTV's 'Best Music On Campus' for 36 consecutive weeks in 2008 after the release of his SOS album, which has distributed over 170,000 copies. West's All-Star band features Grand National Fiddle Champion Alex DePue (Steve Vai/Joe Satriani), world re-known drummer/percussionist Daniel de los Reyes (The Killers/Sting/DonHenley/Sheryl Crowe/James Taylor/Aretha Franklin/Earth Wind & Fire/Brian Wilson/Stevie Nicks/Steve Winwood/Billy Joel/Tim McGraw/Chris Isaak/John Mayer/Peter Frampton/Lindsey Buckingham/Christina Aguilera/Shakira/Dianna Ross/Jimmy Buffett/Rickie Martin/Gloria Estefan/Jennifer Lopez/Yanni), and 26 time San Diego Music Award nominee bassist Marcia Claire.

### CELIA ST. CROIX

"Celia St. Croix has been making the rounds of the local folk coffee house circuit, and her self-titled debut EP features four original tunes, three penned with local music veteran Scott West.

Good decisions abound on this release as the production, arrangements and musicianship are top-notch. St Croix has a soft, melodious vocal presence, starting breathy and low then smoothly and effortlessly climbing." Frank Kocker - San Diego Troubadour

<http://www.celiastcroix.com/>



### SOUL TECH MUSIC

Contemporary Indigenous Musician, Singer-Songwriter, Spiritual Activist -- Earth and Sky Dancing music, intelligent on so many levels. Co-writers Costa/St.John Ramirez deliver a blend of Indigenous Soul music with R&B and Afro Latin Rhythms that is smooth, fun and deep. Music & lyrics are informed from a deeply personal, experiential immersion in New Thought-Ancient Wisdom Spirituality, Native American Indian & East Indian, life and love.





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# FOOL FOR A CLIENT



**"Hilariously outrageous!"**

-D.C. Theatre Scene



**"POLISHED....FUNNY....MOVING....TERRIFIC" ~ "A FINELY TUNED FURY"**  
- Peter Marks, Chief Theater Critic, The Washington Post

A story as powerful, funny and relevant as it is true, *Fool For A Client*, Mark Whitney's autobiographical, high-energy, award-winning, political dramedy, deftly and hilariously explores the inherent tension between the Golden Rule and the Rule of Law, tolerance and zero tolerance, fear and freedom. This tale of individualism and risk versus bureaucracy and control, centers around the epic ten year battle between a lousy student who makes \$50,000 his first year out of high school selling vacuum cleaners door-to-door and the United States Government, represented by a seemingly endless array of insidious bankers, lawyers, tax collectors, FBI agents, politicians, judges, prosecutors, prison guards and probation officers.

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**OCT 21 2011 - 8:00 PM**

**\$10 General Admission**

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ANARCHY

SAN DIEGO

**HUMPHREYS CONCERT  
BY THE BAY**

**OCT 22 2011 - 7:30 PM**

**FEATURING:**

**PEACEMAKERS ROCK  
THE OPTIMATORS  
THE ROOTSTRIKERS  
ROTHBARD BAND  
SCOTT WEST BAND**

**HOSTED BY MARK WHITNEY**

\$10 General Admission

[WWW.LIBERTOPIA.ORG/ANARCHYINSANDIEGO](http://WWW.LIBERTOPIA.ORG/ANARCHYINSANDIEGO)



## STAR TREK: OF GODS AND MEN

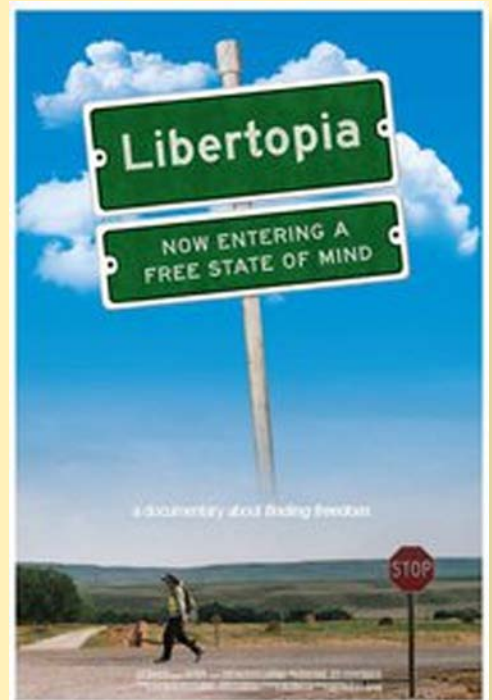
Imagine the Star Trek universe with a decidedly anarchist perspective that delves into the issues of non-violence, freedom and personal responsibility. Star Trek: Of Gods and Men tells an exciting story that reunites over a dozen Star Trek actors (some of them reprising their original roles) to explore themes never before seen in Trek canon.

Co-written and produced by Sky Conway, the film features the talents of more than fifty film professionals as a 40th anniversary tribute to Star Trek fans. As an early user of web streaming technology, Star Trek: Of Gods and Men won the 2008 Syfy Portal Genre Award for Best Web Production.

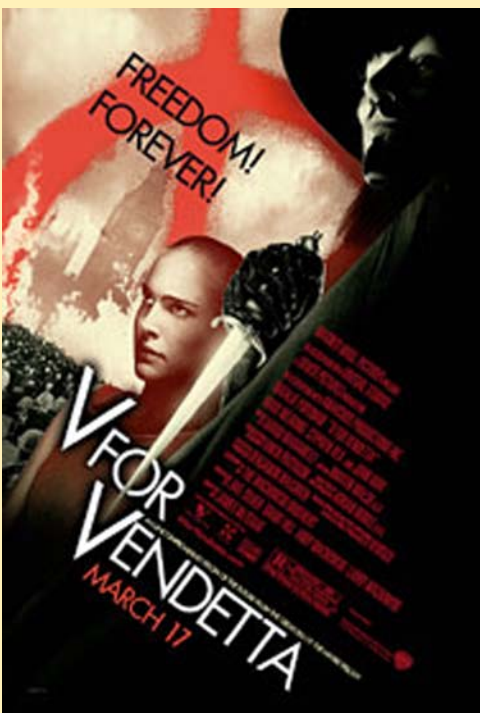
## LIBERTOPIA

Libertopia is a documentary that examines the people of the Free State Project -- ordinary citizens attempting to reclaim a voice against a government which they believe shares neither their priorities nor their interests. Primarily libertarian leaning, and often considered radicals in their home towns, these people have begun a modern-day pilgrimage to the Granite State.

The story unfolds through the eyes of three of these people: A teenager bids farewell to everything he knows upon his 18th birthday. An English professor fights the NH legislature. And a computer programmer takes the road less traveled on his "Walk For Liberty."



## V FOR VENDETTA



Set against the futuristic landscape of totalitarian Britain, V For Vendetta tells the story of a mild-mannered young woman named Evey (NATALIE PORTMAN) who is rescued from a life-and-death situation by a masked man (HUGO WEAVING) known only as "V." Incomparably charismatic and ferociously skilled in the art of combat and deception, V ignites a revolution when he urges his fellow citizens to rise up against tyranny and oppression. As Evey uncovers the truth about V's mysterious background, she also discovers the truth about herself - and emerges as his unlikely ally in the culmination of his plan to bring freedom and justice back to a society fraught with cruelty and corruption.

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# SILVER SAVER

# Libertopia Sovereign Awards

Libertopia is pleased to announce that the Sovereign Awards for Lifetime Achievement will again be presented to three outstanding individuals for their lifetime contribution to advancing the ideas of sovereign individuals, peace, freedom and a voluntary society. The luncheon banquet is a scrumptious feast served buffet style to allow plenty of choices for the discriminating palate. It will take place in the Marina Ballroom on Sunday, October 23, from noon to 2pm.

The Master of Ceremonies, Richard Boddie, a lifelong libertarian activist who went from political candidate to anarchist/voluntaryist, will begin the program with a keynote speech entitled “From ‘The Matrix’ of Politics to the Freedom of Anarchism.”



## **Dr. Sharon Presley**

Sheldon Richman will present the first award to Dr. Sharon Presley for her outstanding work in the psychology of liberty, especially resistance to authority and critical thinking skills, her co-founding of Laissez-Faire Books, and her large body of libertarian anarchist writing.



## **Spencer MacCallum**

The award to Spencer Heath MacCallum will be presented by Michael Strong. Spencer MacCallum has popularized and built on the anarchist work of his grandfather, Spencer Heath, saved the work of E.C. Reigel and Michael Van Notten from obscurity, and contributed his own original thinking to the issues of voluntary society.



## **Butler Shaffer**

Butler Shaffer’s award will be presented by the woman who has shared his intellectual journey, his wife, Jane Ellen Shaffer. During his distinguished career as a Professor of Law at Southwestern University School of Law, Butler Shaffer has written ground-breaking books on social, political and economic theory, showing how coercive institutions fail and liberty and property succeed in providing order to our world.

The Sovereign Awards Luncheon Banquet is only \$60 with a “couples” special of only \$100 for two tickets. It can also be combined with the purchase of an adult membership for the same savings. Purchase online at our Membership page.

## **Reserve Your Hotel Room Today**

Libertopia 2011 is held at Humphrey’s Half Moon Inn and Suites and Humphrey’s Concerts By the Bay, on Shelter Island in San Diego, California. This beautiful location is only a short, free shuttle ride from San Diego International Airport. It is near the world famous San Diego attractions like Sea World and the San Diego Zoo. There are also several campgrounds and many inexpensive motels within a half hour drive.

A four star hotel with exclusive pricing for Libertopia Members -- only \$109 a night! Very limited rooms at special rate. Don’t wait. Register today!

Register Here! [https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g\\_reservation.cfm?groupID=539031&hotelID=6543](https://reservations.ihotelier.com/crs/g_reservation.cfm?groupID=539031&hotelID=6543)



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# Libertopia 2011 Schedule

## Thursday October 20

### -Lobby

5pm-8pm - Preregistration

Courtyard

8pm - Sponsor party

### -Lysander Spooner Room

10:30pm-midnight - Film "Star Trek: Of Gods and Men"

## Friday October 21

### -Libertopia Hospitality Room (behind the stage)

8am-10am - Registration

### -Garden Green

9am-9:45 - Emily Richards - Yoga workshop

10am-noon - Kid's Zone

2pm-6pm - Kid's Zone

### -Main Stage

10am-10:45am - Stefan Molyneux - Welcome to Libertopia

11am-11:45am - Butler Shaffer - The Desire for Liberty Is Not Rational

During lunch from noon to 2pm:

noon- 1pm - Live music

1pm-1:30pm - Comedian Simon Blackthorn

1:30pm-1:45pm - Marc Stevens -- Convert a Statist.

2pm-2:45pm - Sharon Presley, How Government Harms Women, book signing at 2:45 in exhibitor area

3pm-3:45 - Spencer MacCallum - A Skeptic's View of Defensive Force

4pm-4:45 - Brian Doherty - Libertarians and the American Right - book signing at 4:45 in exhibitor area

5pm-5:45 - Michael Strong - Creating a Free Future for All by Creating Free Cities Now

6pm-8pm - dinner break - Join Us at the Bali Hai Restaurant - Make your reservation early (619) 222 - 1181)

8pm-9:30pm - "Fool For A Client" with Mark Whitney

9:30pm-10:30pm - Voluntaryist videos

### -Lysander Spooner Room

11am-11:45am - Sheldon Richman - The Articles of Confederation versus the US Constitution

2pm-2:45pm - Jim Peron - How to Talk to The Left - book signing at 2:45 in exhibitor area

3pm-3:45pm - Paul Lemberg - Freedom and Entrepreneurship: Is Running Your Own Business the Only Path to Self-determination?

4pm-4:45pm - Bill Rounds - How to Vanish

5pm-5:45pm - Angela Keaton - Come Home America!

10:30pm-midnight - Film "Libertopia"



## **-John Galt Room**

11am-11:45am - Entertainment panel - Scott Beiser, Robert Anthony Peters, Larken Rose, J. Neil Schulman

2pm -2:45pm - Carla Gericke - Liberty is Moving: Why the Free State Project's Goal of Concentrating Activists in New Hampshire Is Working

3pm-3:45pm - Lawrence Samuels - The Importance of Chaology & Swarm Intelligence to Liberty

4pm-4:45pm - Desiree Dudley - Freedom to Innovate: A Necessity of Progress

5pm-5:45pm - Perry Mason and Jonathan Logan - The Trans-National Vanguard and the Rise of Crypto-Tribes

## **-Robert LeFevre Room**

11am-11:45am - Stacy Litz - The Future of the Student Movement for Liberty

2pm-2:45pm - Fred Stitt and Penny Burbank - Advances in world-wide libertarian outreach through social media

3pm-3:45pm - Marlene Damon - You Can't Not Communicate

4pm-4:45pm - Paul Rosenberg - Digital Currencies & The New Economy

5pm-5:45pm - Tarrin Lupo - Tips for Self-Publishing. How an indie author and liberty activist's book became #1 on Amazon without copyright protection

## **-Ludwig Von Mises Room**

11am-11:45am - Bruce Rottman - Challenges to Freedom: Ancient, Modern, and Future

2pm-2:45pm - Bruce Rottman - Defending the Free Society: Two Approaches (Rights and Utility)

3pm-3:45pm - Robert Anthony Peters - The Revolution WILL be Televised: How Art and Culture are Necessary for the Freedom Movement

4pm-4:45pm - Zaira Dynia - Women and the Agorist Family

5pm-5:45pm - John Rafanello - Living Free and Happy in an Unfree World

## **Saturday October 22**

### **-Libertopia Hospitality Room (behind the stage)**

8am-10am - Last Chance Registration

### **-Garden Green**

8am-8:45am - Marc Stevens - fitness workshop

9am-noon - Kid's Zone

2pm-6pm - Kid's Zone

### **-Main Stage**

9am-9:45am - J. Neil Schulman - Brother, Can You Spare a Million Bucks?

10am-10:45am - Gary Chartier - Your Most Important Contribution to the Cause of Freedom - book signing at 10:45 in exhibitor area

11am-11:45am - Larken Rose - Seeing the Future - book signing at 11:45 in exhibitor area

During lunch from noon to 2pm:

noon- 1pm - Live music

1pm - 1:30pm - open mic

1:30pm - 2pm - Comedienne Sindi Somers

2pm-2:45pm - Marc Stevens - Effective Damage Control

3pm-3:45pm - David Friedman - Should We Abolish the Criminal Law?

4pm-4:45pm - Jay Stuart Snelson - Win-Win Theory on the Unification of Science, Economics, and

## Religion

5pm-5:45pm - Meet the A Team open forum discussion - Gary Chartier, David Friedman, Roderick Long, and Sheldon Richman

6pm-8pm - dinner break - Join Us at the Humphrey's Restaurant - Make your reservations early (619) 378-4281

8pm-10:30pm - Anarchy in San Diego concert

## **-Lysander Spooner Room**

9am-9:45am - Roderick Long - Libertarianism and Class Struggle

10am-10:45am - Ryan William Nohea Garcia - Seasteading

3pm-3:45pm - Tom Bell - White Flag, Black Flag, and In Between

4pm-4:45pm - Jeff Berwick - The Road to Free Market Money and Banking

5pm-5:45pm - Peter Bos - The Road to Freedom: The Demise of the Nation-State

10:30pm-midnight - Film "V for Vendetta"

## **-John Galt Room**

9am-9:45am - Education panel - Debbie Harbeseon, Joey Hill, Bruce Rottman, Erika Perkins, and Fred Stitt

10am-10:45am - Entrepreneurship panel - Jeff Berwick, Tom Garrett, Paul Lemberg, and Paul Rosenberg

3pm-3:45pm - Debbie Harbeson - The Five Principles of Unschooling

4pm-4:45pm - Anthony Gregory - The Case for Abolishing the Police

5pm-5:45pm - Bill Buppert - Private Security and the Post-State World: The Virtue of Voluntary Defense

## **-Robert LeFevre Room**

9am-9:45am - Adam Summers - Applying Free-Market Economics to State and National Problems

10am-10:45am - Michael Cindrich - Marijuana Prohibition And Its Costs to Society

3pm-3:45pm - Barry Schwartz - Economics and Kepler's Angels: Defending the Law of Marginal Utilities

4pm-4:45pm - Fred Stitt - Problems and Solutions in Freedom-focused Higher Education

5pm-5:45pm - Chelsea Krafve - The Student Movement for Liberty

## **-Ludwig Von Mises Room**

9am-9:45am - Scott Bieser - Pondering Intellectual Property

10am-10:45am - Bruce Rottman - Unemployment: A Crusoe Simulation

3pm-3:45pm - Bruce Rottman - A History of Money

4pm-4:45pm - Sharon Presley - A Critical Thinking Workshop for Libertarians

5pm-5:45pm - Bruce Rottman - Making Responsible Choices

## **Sunday October 23**

### **-Garden Green**

8am-8:45am - Barry Schwartz - Aikido Workshop

10am-noon - Kid's Zone

2pm-6pm - Kid's Zone

## -Main Stage

9am-9:45am - David Friedman - Legal Systems Very Different From Ours

10am-10:45am - Declaration of Independence presentation - Sky Conway and Gary Chartier

11am-11:45am - Meet the A Team open forum discussion - Stefan Molyneux, Larken Rose, Butler Shaffer, and Marc Stevens

noon-2pm - lunch break

2pm-2:45pm - Global Strategies to Get to Libertopia - Peter Bos, Ryan William Nohea Garcia, and Michael Strong

3pm-3:45pm - Individual Strategies to Get to Libertopia - Panelists to be announced

4pm-4:45pm - Stefan Molyneux - The Future Will Be Nothing like the Past!

## -Marina Ballroom

Noon-2pm - Sovereign Awards Banquet



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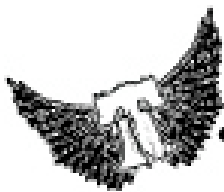
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