

An erstwhile publication of the Alliance of Libertarian Activists  
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A year has elapsed since this publication last appeared--a less frequent rate of issue than those who have published it desired, but, none the less, the de facto result of the diversion of energies to other aspects of our individualistic lives. During this year some original members of ALA have "dropped out", mainly due to route changes in their own personal "trips", not to any fundamental ideological disputes; other people have joined the Alliance, and still others have altered the form of their activism. Such changes should not be surprising, for in an individualist conception of things, the organization is the tool of the individuals associated, not vice-versa. The organization remains but one aspect of the lives of the individuals involved.

In response both to inquiries from others and to our own curiosity, we in Berkeley, California have reflected upon what ALA should be and how it might be profitable to those who have laid down their membership fee in the past year. The thoughts which follow are the responsibility of the editor alone.

#### What Is "Activism"?

Some people may question the activism of ALA because it does not abound with the qualities of the common activist stereotype, e.g., supporting candidates for political office, garnering petition signatures, manning picket lines, or issuing proclamations to man the barricades.

However, I have in mind a more fundamental conception of the "libertarian activist". This is the person who works to make freedom relevant to his own life now, in his own way and to the degree that those circumstances which he cannot change permit. As a contrast, I cite the person who talks of freedom while in the parlor but sees thoroughgoing liberty relevant only in some future free society, not in the day-to-day existence of individuals now. For the present and near future, he counsels us to obey religiously every law that governmental thugs lay upon us and to support enthusiastically that degree of authoritarian incursion into our lives which he finds necessary to repel his favorite domestic and/or foreign, monolithic menace.

The free man, the "libertarian activist," begins by chasing the authoritarian spooks out of his own head--freedom begins in the mind. And then he does whatever he deems profitable to improve his personal condition of liberty. The stress is on changing oneself now rather than letting one's freedom depend primarily on changing the masses or the institutions.

Many kinds of conventional political activity, such as voting and electioneering, would probably be disdained by most ALA-type activists, except perhaps those activities that promoted the repeal of laws or worked toward the prevention of new acts of legal coercion. (As someone once said, "voting is an exercise in ruling others.")

Libertarian activists might well instead take personal pleasure in the formulation and exchange of ideas. This may include, for example, literature distribution or informational picketing--with perhaps a distant hope but not the naive expectation that large numbers of people will soon embrace a libertarian viewpoint. Acertain pleasure derives from

maintaining at least a presence in the marketplace of ideas and blowing some authoritarian minds.

Libertarians might form intentional communities and ethical enclaves, resist the draft, evade taxes or engage in free or black market trade.

But one should not forget where it all begins--with individual self-liberation.

#### ALA Activities -- Chapters and Individuals

The political activities of the individuals and chapters of ALA have been by no means confined to self-liberation.

Members and fellow-travelers of ALA have maintained a libertarian column in the Daily Californian, the student newspaper at the University of California at Berkeley, for the last two years.

The Center for Libertarian Studies, an independent affiliate of ALA, publishes a bimonthly journal called The Libertarian American. Subscription is \$1.00 a year or 25¢ for a single copy. Address inquiries to The Libertarian American, 227 Harrison Ave., San Antonio, Texas, 78209.

From the San Francisco State College chapter, a report by the chairman, Sharon Presley (also known as S.F. State's only left-wing right-winger):

"In April, SF State ALA successfully swelled the ALA coffers. The money-raising project, billed as the "Ten Most Dangerous Men In America Contest", was conducted under the auspices of the Bavarian Illuminati. ("a super-secret society of international conspirator-financiers who are in total command of all the subversive and revolutionary groups of the world." according to Illuminati spokesmen. Old Berkeley ALAers and fellow-travelers will remember previous fund-raising and assorted projects conducted by this group so dear to our hearts.) Just as in real politics, money talked in this balloting; the more money you gave, the more votes you got.

The S.F. State chapter is a unique group on campus. It is a true coalition of both "left-wing" and "right-wing" libertarians and includes Jefferson Fuck Poland, founder of the Sexual Freedom League. (That's his actual legal middle name now -- another blow to censorship.) ALA is, in addition, the only consistently libertarian group on campus.

In addition to the chapter's fund-raising and distribution of literature on campus, members have been successful in promoting libertarian ideas in print. Several of my articles have been published in Open Process, a radical weekly on campus, and in Politics, the journal of the Political Science Graduate Student Association at S.F. State. I encourage other ALA members to explore this avenue of activism. Writing is an extremely important and useful method of activism but it should not be just for our favorite obscure libertarian publication. There's a danger of becoming too incestuous. We need to look for bigger and broader audiences -- campus newspapers and journals, radical newspapers, etc. -- these and other avenues are by no means closed to us if we are willing to make some efforts."

A further note on the achievements of one member of the S.F. State chapter:

Jefferson Poland, long in the forefront of the battle against legal suppression of sexual freedom, has made another in his series of attempts to test the laws pertaining to public nudity. On Memorial Day he read from the Bible while nude in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. City police were not favorably impressed by his particular form of political activism, and he now faces legal action. Contributions to his defense fund are welcomed and can be sent c/o ALA, Box 91, Berkeley, California, 94701.

Kerry Thornley, another ALA member, has recently been involved in the Garrison probe into John F. Kennedy's assassination. (Kerry knew Lee Harvey Oswald in the Marines and later wrote a book called "Oswald".) Kerry who previously testified before Garrison is now being tried for perjury. His personal statement in regard to Garrison follows:

#### A BULLETIN TO ALL "RIGHTWING ANARCHISTS" AND OTHER LIBERTARIANS

In October of 1967, months before I was "hereby commanded" to go to New Orleans and testify in the Garrison probe, Jim Garrison told a friend of mine that he "fully understood" my libertarianism. And notwithstanding his resort to the use of coercive State powers, Mr. Garrison has styled himself "a conservative libertarian" and said that his sympathies are always with the individual against the State.

In November of 1967 Garrison charged privately that I worked for the CIA and had also worked for racist Conservative, Kent Courtney - not mentioning that my employment for Mr. Courtney had been an assignment from a temporary employment agency and that it had lasted only a few days in 1961 or '62 and that it had turned me off of Conservatism quite thoroughly.

When I went to New Orleans to testify, Mr. Andy "Mu-Mu" Sciambra, the investigator assigned to my case, characterized me as "some kind of right-winger". Assistant DA Jim Alsock once revealed that he thought it credible that I may have at one time worked passing out leaflets for Birchers.

I explained several times to them that I am neither a traditionalist nor a nationalist nor a racist -- that I oppose the John Birch Society and what passes today as political Conservatism. I went on to say that I am a "right-winger" in so far as I favor individualism, but that my rightism is more anarchistic than authoritarian. They both looked at me blankly, not seeming to hear.

As Richard N. Billings wrote of Garrison in the 22 April 1968 issue of the Miami HERALD, "He has fired incriminating charges in all directions-- at Cuban exiles, neo-Nazis, Southern racists, Texas rightwingers, California Birchers -- to the point that he must believe the conspirators numbered in the hundreds." After my arrest I wondered how the New Orleans DA planned to cash in on my "rightwing" philosophy and at the same time advance the notion that I would have accepted employment from an authoritarian group like the CIA or conspired to assassinate a President with members of the reactionary right. I finally concluded that he would either have to argue that my social philosophy is a pose, thus undercutting the incriminating value of my being "some kind of rightwinger", or make another basic revision in his "solution" to the assassination.

A California Conservative named Loran Hall recently went to New Orleans and cleared himself with Garrison. While he was there, the Lyndon Johnson of Louisiana obviously gave him the "Garrison treatment". In an interview in the 24 May 1968 issue of the Los Angeles FREE PRESS he reports that Mr. Garrison had "a voice that you knew was that of a man of intelligence and compassion..."

Hall also says that he learned that the assassination "was precipitated by the Fascists and the rightist anarchists and that actually they are one and the same." He also says that, "I firmly believe that the rightist anarchists and the CIA can take over our country right now and it would be a Fascist state except for two things." What two things? "They would have to destroy organizations such as the John Birch Society and bring discredit upon it... The other thing that is in their way is a man, a big man, a giant of a man by the name of Jim Garrison..."

How do you intellectually bridge the gap between individualist anarchism and the CIA? Mr. Hall says, "If the Government can kill then we have an anarchy..."

KERRY THORNLEY 29 May 1968

Contributions to Kerry's fight against Garrison's hassling would be appreciated and can be sent c/o ALA.

ASSORTED OTHER COMMENTS

Letters from ALA members -- activities, ideas, questions, discussions-- are encouraged and will be printed in future newsletters as space and relevance permits. Communication among libertarians can be very rewarding and the editorial staff would like to see more of it.

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Our ALA brochure is rapidly being outdated by world events. Three persons on the ALA list of nonendorsers have been assassinated in the last year.

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A member passed this on to us: "In line with Viet Cong aggression abroad and the riots of Blacks and Hippies at home, a revised Pledge of Allegiance to these United States appears to be in order. The author modestly proposes the version below as a suitable substitute for the Pledge antiquated by our present national crisis:

A Pledge of Obeisance

I pledge obeisance to the rag of the United Slaves of America and to the police state for which it stands, one concentration camp, under God, inescapable, with slavery and injustice for all."

\* \* \* \*

New ALA members will receive the Libertarian American gratis.

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ALA GOODIES FOR SALE

Buttons: End the Selective Slavery System  
Liberate America  
Don't Tread On Me  
In Gold We Trust (with unique design)  
Support Isolationist Foreign Policy  
\$ ( gold \$ on black background)

Bumper sticker: End the Selective Slavery System

All: 25¢ each

Individualist libertarians in Berkeley have written a libertarian column over the past two years for the DAILY CALIFORNIAN, the student newspaper at the University of California. Following is the finale from the past year (5/27/68). The author is a student in history at the University.

AMERICAN LIBERATION FRONT by Thomas Jacobsen

"All men are mad who devote themselves to the pursuit of power when they could be fishing, painting pictures, or simply sitting in the sun." —A.J.P. Taylor, **FROM NAPOLEON TO STALIN**

Last week in the Golden State, right here in Berkeley where it all started, the American Liberation Front, of which, I am proud to say, I am a founding brother, **so to speak, was born.**

ALF is not a political party, it has no officers, no platforms or constitutions, no official membership, plans no caucuses, no meetings, no conventions. Rather it is a happy medium through which free individuals can come together to make love, make money, make up to, make out, make over, make under, make up, make after, or just plain make it, fake it, take it, bake it, rake it in.

As far as ALF has an intellectual godfather, I guess the crown of thorns and cross of gold would have to go to Lysander Spooner, the first hippie postman. Spooner woke up one morning and decided he would start his own post office, and when his service began to drive the U.S. Post Office out of business, the Supreme Court ruled that the power of Congress to establish a post office really meant the power to establish the only post office. And after all, if ordinary citizens could deliver the mail, how could it be inspected and censored in the public interest and how could the pornography and commie propaganda be intercepted for our own good?

In answer to the Court, Spooner wrote No Treason: The Constitution of No Authority, which I had read even before Playboy (April, 1968) said it "may be the most subversive document ever penned in this nation." (ALF will be selling copies of No Treason soon.) The Constitution, as a legal contract has no authority over us, **because we never signed it.**

ALF does not recognize the United States government and will comply with its laws only at the point of a gun. Since the mass of people delight in despotism (read Bertrand de Jouvenal's On Power) and law and disorder, ALF does not want to spoil their illusions or attempt to overthrow the state by violence; they have most of the guns anyway. As Gandhi once said, "If one is to combat the fetish of force, it will only be by means totally different from those in vogue among the pure worshippers of brute force." Instead, our program is simply this: Let the State Disintegrate.

Waiting for the state to disintegrate, ALF will be "programmed for a disruptive festival of joy—a generally loving retaliation against absurd attack." (From my Joysday Machine poster; where is the Yellow Submarine Movement now that we really need it?)

A few of our printable ideas thus far: if they give you an IBM card, spindle it until it hollerith; if they give you a draft card, kiss it until dissolves; if they send you a bill for taxes, write out your check on a hunk of two-by-four. Don't pay the excise tax on your phone bill; don't pay the excise tax on your lipstick, if you're a girl, that is.

Our goal is self-determination for all individuals and voluntary associations of individuals desiring it. Like the Quakers and the Amish, we intend to make ourselves as unoppressible and unmanipulatable that the state will in the end be forced to exempt us from taxation, conscription, and all other forms of legal exploitation.

ALF welcomes any disruptive ideas and tactics you may want to share with us, and we welcome to our ranks any and all individuals who just want to be free, who are ready to live without laws--now. We will be sitting in the sun and manning our table every now and then, outside 2532 Durant Avenue. (Look for the black flag.) Come by and talk anarchy, or life, or baseball.

I often hear it said by upright, uptight, pro-American types that anarchy would lead to violence and chaos. Friends, let me tell you, if every ordinary person in this country worked fourteen hours a day looting and murdering from now to the year 2000, they would never be able to match the extermination, exploitation, expropriation perpetrated by this government, all in the name of democracy, Manifest Destiny, the "national interest," and "right to a decent life," and, yes, all in the name of you--the American people....

Don't implicate yourself in these crimes. Don't vote June 4; instead go fishing with us. Politics is spending your life planning other people's lives. LIVE YOUR LIFE. Do it now. Alf! Anarch!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  
ALLIANCE OF LIBERTARIAN ACTIVISTS

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in starting a chapter \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to contribute \_\_\_\_\_ to ALA's work.

I am in agreement with the Berkeley Statement and wish to join ALA. I have enclosed \$1 yearly dues. \_\_\_\_\_

*Please advise of any freedom projects you are especially interested in promoting.*

**List of Non-Endorsers**

*The following persons have not endorsed ALA*

- Robert Welch
- Gus Hall
- Henry Ford II
- Walter Reuther
- Gen. Lewis B. Hershey
- Luci Johnson and friends
- Lester Maddox
- Nguyen Cao Ky
- Ho Chi Minh
- Miss Teenage America
- Robert Strange McNamara
- Generalissimo Franco
- Alexi Kosygin
- Willard Wirtz
- Ann Landers
- Robert Kennedy
- Bishop James Pike
- Nelson Rockefeller
- Walter Lippmann
- U Thant
- George Lincoln Rockwell
- Martin Luther King
- Amy Vanderbilt

**Alliance of  
Libertarian**

**Activists**



P.O. BOX 91  
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94701

## **Libertarians,**

### **Anarchists,**

#### **Individualists**

*Are you disgusted with the mere lip service paid to individual freedom by both the orthodox Left and Right?*

*Do you hold that individual freedom is the foremost of human values and can exist only when men are free to individually control all aspects of their own lives?*

*Are you interested in joining a coalition of libertarians and other freedom activists, unfettered by dogmatic ideology, who are pledged to the abolition of all institutionalized coercive restrictions on human action?*

If you are an active proponent of individual freedom and are looking for a vehicle for action and for an association with like-minded individuals, we would like to welcome you to membership in ALA.

## **The Berkeley Statement**

of the Alliance of Libertarian Activists (ALA)

In this period of conflict between the emerging philosophy of individual liberty and the forces of collectivism, we as libertarians believe it our moral duty to assert:

That the rights to life and liberty are the foremost transcendent values of the individual and that history has conclusively shown that mankind achieves its most noble accomplishments when the creative energies of the individual are freed from the restraints of coercion;

That we explicitly reject moral systems which center morality in the collective social organization—whether in the name of Tradition, Religion, Science, Economics, Politics, or the dialectics of History;

That the right to hold and use the creations of his own mind is one of the individual's most sacred rights;

That the ideal social system is a voluntary association of free men, whose primary social concern is with freedom of expression and with integrity of individual members and of their labors;

That individual liberty should be bounded only by the restraints necessary to prevent one man from depriving another of his life or substance against his will;

That the single economic system most compatible with human freedom is that of the free market economy, allocating resources by the free play of supply and demand;

That since history has shown political tyranny to be the greatest destroyer of human liberty, we would restrain any existing government to at most the following functions: a) preservation of internal justice—which means the defense of persons and their property—against aggressive force; b) protection from external aggression by means which do not violate the liberty of the citizens being defended; and c) maintenance of such services as do not conflict with individual liberty.

We therefore dedicate ourselves to the struggle against all forms of involuntary collectivism—whether economic, social, or political; we pledge ourselves to the use of all means consistent with our above-stated principles in preserving and expanding individual liberty; and we direct our attention especially to the Leviathan most active in suppressing individual liberty in our time: the increasing centralization of economic, political, and social power in the hands of omnipotent government, whether under the aegis of Marxism-Leninism or Fascism, of Maoism or National Socialism—or of the Western democracies.

We look forward to the day when free men shall everywhere populate the Earth, living in the peace which only respect for human life and liberty can create.

ALA is a coalition of individualists who hold that the most important political division in the world today is between those who wish to expand individual freedom and those who desire to increase the power of that agent of coercive collectivism—the State.

ALA is not a mass membership organization. Its influence depends upon the quality of its members and their actions, not on national leadership or programs handed down from the top. Therefore, the central organization functions only as a clearing house for information and as a coordinator of chapter and individual activities. The central organization takes no policy stands. Membership in ALA is contingent only upon adherence to the principles set forth in the Berkeley Statement and upon payment of yearly dues.

Chapters and individual members have endorsed and worked actively for such positions as:

*Abolition of conscription*

*Legalization of abortion*

*Legalization of the use of psychedelic substances*

*Abolition of all laws governing voluntary sexual practices and nudity*

*Preventing an imperialistic American foreign policy*

*An end to police harassment of students, youth and non-conformists*

*Free trade and the abolition of tariffs*

*The repeal of all censorship laws*

*Citizen control of police forces*

*Political equality for American Indians and other minorities*