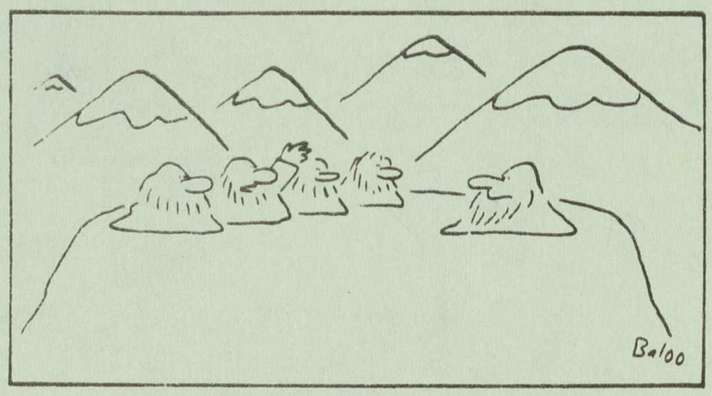
Chair of the Georgia LP, to discuss relationship between the LP and the Advocates, and merits of political action vs. educating people to become libertarians.

NB: The Advocates for Self-Government, Inc. is not involved in political action; we are an educational group whose purpose is to get people to become libertarians; the organization, we take no position on the value of political activity; some individual Advocates favor it, some don't.



"Will the significance of the universe be on the final?"

More excitement that evening; Barry called and told Carole Ann and me that he'd heard a certain notorious group was going to attend the Intro Event the next evening; we tried to calm him down and convince him I could handle hecklers. Finally he got through to us -- his concern was that they might get confused and agree with us!

We couldn't think of any brilliant preemptive move, so we hired uniformed police for "parking lot control" and played by ear.

Next morning Ken Rand drove me to ...

GAINESVILLE, GA, July 16. The Big Day. Thousands had been invited to the Intro Event that night. Barry Conner, host, Bill Cumming, advertising, dozens of others in Gainesville (Thank you, Bridgette), and I had worked for weeks to make this be biggest Intro Event ever. But first, ...

On the way Ken & I discussed how many libertarians have learned to give the Intro Event. His question forced an important realization -- I'd gotten away from some good advice Ed Clark gave me in 1983: train others to give the intro. I've been so intent on making the Intro bigger and better that I lost sight of keeping it doable by others. I decided to fix that (see Indianapolis, below).

Next was an interview by Priscilla Daves, Gainesville Times. Barry Conner knew she was bright, inquisitive, and wanted to understand self-government, not just write a story poking fun at us.

THE BIG DAY

Barry Conner is an interesting guy. He liked the Intro Event he saw in April, so he invited me back to do it again in July -- to a much larger audience.

The record was 78 attendees. He asked me if I was ready for 200. I thought he was stretching it a bit, but said Yes Indeed!

He wasn't blowing smoke. He had radio and newspaper ads. He mailed 1800 invitations to members of the Chamber of Commerce. He personally called every vendor, friend and associate and invited them. He gave invitations to his employees to hand out. I guess the Goodyear blimp was busy, because he didn't use it!

We had no idea how many people would come because of all the energy and several thousands of dollars of hype. What if it was 77? Or 57? Or 27????? Anyway, I estimated 127; we set the room for 140; we had 50 chairs in reserve, plus another 100 in a second room that could be adjoined by removing a sliding wall.

Fifteen minutes before starting time I sensed we had a failure -- not a single person had come into the room.

I went looking for Barry and found him in the entrance hall -- with 40 people! They simply hadn't opened the doors yet to the main hall! We were in great shape!!!

A total of 197 attended. The presentation worked just fine. The good folks of Gainesville, GA were very receptive to the libertarian message!

(Note: some of the folks from the notorius group were there, but luckily, no white sheets, no heckling, and best of all, no "support" for the Advocates.)