Clint Eastwood: I’m a “libertarian”

Movie star Clint Eastwood “made the day” of Libertarians across the county this month when he announced that he’s a libertarian.

In an interview in the March issue of Playboy magazine, the Oscar-winning actor and director candidly affiliated himself with the libertarian movement when he was asked: “How would you characterize yourself politically?”

The laconic Eastwood answered, “Libertarian” — and then went on to explain the philosophy in simple terms: “Everyone leaves everyone else alone.”

He also took a swipe at the Republicans and Democrats, noting that neither of those political parties “seems to have the ability to embrace that sort of thing.”

However, Libertarian Party members shouldn’t expect to see “Dirty Harry For President” bumperstickers appearing soon; Eastwood flatly rejected a career in politics. “It’s a lot of work and a lot of frustration.”

But if the movie star ever changes his mind, the LP says it would love to sit down and talk to him.

“If Mr. Eastwood ever decides to join the Libertarian Party or seek public office on our ticket, we’d be happy to discuss with him how that could advance the cause of liberty in America,” said the party’s national director, Perry Willis. “Until that time, however, we’re delighted that he’s on our side philosophically.”

LP of Alabama’s State Chair appointed to state banking job

The Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Alabama has been appointed to a high-ranking position in that state’s banking department — and says he is “optimistic about achieving some good for the people of Alabama.”

Mark Thornton, an economics professor at Auburn University and state LP Chairman since 1996, was appointed as Assistant Supervisor of Banking in the State Banking Department in mid-February by Republican governor Fob James. He has stepped down as LP Chairman to take the new job.

The appointment followed Thornton’s high-profile campaign for the U.S. Senate in 1996 — a campaign which he said seemed to leave the “media and the voters favorably impressed” by his ideas and credibility.

“I think that the visibility of my campaign for U.S. Senate did have something to do with the appointment,” said Thornton. “It was a positive campaign that stressed issues and solutions.”

Even so, the appointment of a high-ranking Libertarian Party member did surprise some observers.

“I am a tough and outspoken critic of some Republican policies and a member of an alternative political party,” noted Thornton. However, the fact that “libertarian economic thought is winning the day all over the world” may have made the difference, he theorized.

As Assistant Supervisor of Banking, Thornton will help oversee the deregulation of the state’s banking industry.

Libertarian group challenges tardy gun permits in New Jersey

Libertarians in New Jersey have filed a lawsuit to force local police departments to stop their foot-dragging when issuing gun permits.

The Libertarian Party of Somerset & Middlesex Counties filed a suit in early January after LP member Diane Alder had to wait 56 days before being granted a permit. According to state law, permits must be granted or denied within 30 days.

LP spokesperson John Paff said their specific goal in this case was “to pressure police chiefs to issue permits more quickly” in hopes that other New Jersey citizens would not have to wait as long as Adler did.

However, Paff noted that Libertarians “oppose all forms of gun control,” and “believe that an armed citizenry is essential to a free society.”
**Libertarians have made great inroads**

By Steve Daspach

In 1848, the Whig ticket of Zachary Taylor and Millard Fillmore captured the White House for the first time. Probably no one suspected that it was the last presidential election the Whigs would ever win. Yet, 12 years later, as Republican Abraham Lincoln took the oath of office as our 16th president, the Whigs had ceased to exist as a political party. Could we be witnessing the start of a similar political realignment over the next 12 years? Consider:

- Fewer than one in five Americans trusts the government in Washington to do what is right.
- More than three in five Americans want to see a new major political party. The most likely candidate for that new major political party, the Libertarian Party, celebrated its 25th anniversary last Wednesday.

Libertarian ideas that were considered outlandish 20 years ago — such as getting rid of the personal income tax and the IRS, ending the insane war on drugs and replacing it with a personal drug policy, and allowing the bankruptcy Social Security system with private retirement accounts — are part of mainstream political debate now. Libertarians have become one of the most powerful intellectual forces in America.

This influence hasn’t escaped the notice of the media. Libertarianism has been called ‘the real inspiration behind the Republican revolution’ (New York magazine, 1995), and the de facto philosophy of a generation (for the youth of the 1990s)” (USA Today, 1995). It’s the cutting-edge realities of the insider class. The Libertarian Party has made it easier for newer parties like Ross Perot’s Reform Party to get on the ballot. The Libertarian Party is directly responsible for significant improvements in ballot access in 20 different states,” says Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News and the nation’s leading expert on third parties and ballot access.

Here in Indiana, the Libertarian Party fielded a record number of candidates in 1996, including a full slate of congressional candidates, and received the most votes ever in a statewide race. Most significantly, Tippecanoe County Council candidate K.D. Benson beat her Democratic opponent, finishing only a few percentage points behind the Republican winner. Over the past two years, the Libertarian Party has more than doubled its national contributor base. This year’s growth alone exceeds the growth of the previous 11 years combined.

For 25 years, Republicans and Democrats have been hoping that the Libertarians would shut up and go away. But there’s no chance of that. Every time they suggest a new tax, or create a new bureaucracy, or impose more censorship, or get America involved in another futile, bloody war, or subsidize their corporate clients, the Libertarian Party will be there to point out their sins. And when the American public eventually grows tired of the politics-as-usual of the two older parties, the Libertarian Party will be ready to help them follow the Whigs into the history books.

**Libertarian files to run in District 2**

**BY FRANK SHELTON**

A Cotton Hope man has become the third candidate for the vacant District 2 seat on the Beaufort County Council.

Chuck Williams, 45, a local water and wastewater consultant, said he filed Thursday with the Libertarian Party. Williams joined Republicans Todd Johnson and Cynthia Bensch in the race for the seat formerly held by Republican Vicki Mullin.

Williams, a Savannah native who grew up in Beaufort said the local issues that concern him the most are the ones dealing with property rights.

"Just because you covet your neighbor’s property doesn’t mean you have the right to hold a gun to his head and tell him not to cut down his trees," he said.

Williams said documents like Beaufort County’s draft comprehensive plan give too much regulatory power to government and take away individual property rights.

"I could only support it if it were a voluntary plan," he said of the comprehensive plan.

Williams said the Libertarian Party members believe that a more expanding government is not what was envisioned by the authors of the U.S. Constitution.

Libertarians also support the free market system and believe that voluntary action goes farther than government regulations, he said.

"I hope I get the chance to speak my mind on these issues, and I’ll see if I can get some people to listen," he said. "You never know what can happen."

Williams is married and is the president of a Cotton Hope regime. He is also the vice chairman of the state Libertarian Party. The District 2 seat has been vacant since Dec. 2 when Mullin resigned to become the state House District 123 representative.

Bench of Windmill Harbour filed last week with the Republican Party. Taylor filed earlier, with GOP officials after he moved from Hilton Head Plantation in District 1 to Spanish Wells Plantation in District 2.

Bench said she wanted to wait until the new year to talk about her candidacy.

"Everybody’s worn out with politics," she said. "Let voters enjoy the holiday season."

Taylor, who has represented District 1 since 1990 and served as the council chairman since January 1993, said he knows little about Bench or Williams.

"They are a public service who have the right to have a contested race," he said.

Bench and Taylor will face each other in a Feb. 11 primary election. The winner will then face Williams in an April 22 special election.

Independent candidates also may file by petition for the District 2 seat from Feb. 11 to Feb. 18. Qualifying requires getting signatures from 5 percent of the districts 5,847 active registered voters, according to county elections director Agnes Cardin.

Party candidates may file for the District 1 seat that Taylor is vacating between Jan. 10 and Jan. 20. Cardin said a primary election for that seat will be held March 4, and the party winners will meet in the April 22 special election.
Burgeoning libertarianism: They're on to something you should know about

By Boaz B. Barak

American Social Policy, 1950-1990, by Murray, most famously co-author of "The Poverty of Nations." Murray's is a detailed and eloquent study, whereas Murray's is a provocative, lean manifesto. For those who want to delve deeply into the philosophical detail, read Boaz. Michael Pakenham's book is substantially the same for many of the same reasons.

Means to Be a Libertarian: A Personal Interpretation and David Boaz's "Libertarianism: A Primer" are very different works. Murray's is spare and elegant, concentrating on basic principles. Boaz's book is substantially the same for many of the same reasons. The main reason is that the alternatives to libertarianism -- fascism, communism, socialism, the welfare state -- have been tried in the 20th century and have failed. Public education would become a national corporation, states would be人际关系, economics, social and political.

Moving away from Big Brother

Libertarianism, David Boaz writes, is "the view that each person has the right to live in any way he chooses as long as he respects the equal rights of others." Libertarians defend each person's right to life, liberty, and property -- rights that people possess naturally before government comes into existence. In the libertarian view, all human actions that are not voluntarily agreed to should be voluntary; the only actions that should be forbidden by law are those that involve the initiation of force against those who have not voluntarily agreed to give it.

Do you really care? Aren't those a bunch of loony nostalgists rolling back the clock to the idyllic 17th century America? Maybe. But they care and work for exactly the same reason that Boaz Barak does: "They are on to something you should know about."

The vanguard now? Boaz asks, also in his new "Libertarianism: A Primer" (Free Press, 325 pages, $23). "The vanguard now? Boaz asks, also in his new "Libertarianism: A Primer" (Free Press, 325 pages, $23). "The reason is that the alternatives to libertarianism -- fascism, communism, socialism, the welfare state -- have been tried in the 20th century and have failed. Public education would become a national corporation, states would be人际关系, economics, social and political.

More quotas coming

As far as the U.S. government is concerned, you are either white, black, American Indian, Eskimo, Asian/Pacific Islander or Hispanic. But now-just as we are brought to our attention yesterday by the chairman of the Libertarian Party, federal courts and the IRS to work to add new categories to America's "official" list of federally recognized racial and ethnic classifications.

The current categories were created by the Office of Management and Budget in 1977, but for the past three years the OMB has been weighing proposals to recognize further categories, including Hawaiian, six different kinds of Latino, multiracial, Middle Easterner, Arab American, "other" Creole and Germanic. "Various ethnic groups are lobbying to add these categories to the official list of races, because they know they'll hit the jackpot if they become a protected class under anti-discrimination laws," says Steve Duschab, the Libertarian chairperson.

Federal agencies use the race and ethnicity data to enforce federal laws. In 1964, four out of four Americans of American color, and the welfare state -- have all been tried in the 20th century, and all have failed to produce peace, prosperity and freedom. More and more people in the United States and elsewhere -- recognize that Western-style big government is going through a slow-motion version of communism's collapse.

That's why, from Bombay to Bonn to Buenos Aires, the world is moving toward deregulated markets, lower taxes, a freer flow of information and greater respect for individual choices. Skeptics have always sneered that libertarian ideas could never work in the real world. We may get the chance to find out.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, in his 1937 "New Deal" speech, coined the term "means to be a libertarian." The term became a label for essentially Darwinian jungle. These libertarians find their roots in the 19th century in the work of John Locke and importantly John Stuart Mill. They are very different works. Murray's is a detailed and eloquent study, whereas Murray's is a provocative, lean manifesto. For those who want to delve deeply into the philosophical detail, read Boaz. Michael Pakenham's book is substantially the same for many of the same reasons. The main reason is that the alternatives to libertarianism -- fascism, communism, socialism, the welfare state -- have been tried in the 20th century and have failed. Public education would become a national corporation, states would be人际关系, economics, social and political.

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Libertarian Calls For Across-The-Board Tax Cuts

By MARK THORNTON

The Libertarian Party is now 25 years old and is celebrating its best year ever. In 1997, a handful of disenchanted Republicans, Democrats and independents gathered in San Francisco-based Libertarian Party's headquarters in the Richmond area, she said. Ms. Hughes said.

Members met Sunday in Winchester with Shadrack Tumsin. The 10th District representative on the Virginia Libertarian Party's state Central Committee. She outlined the state party's hopes to go beyond its original purpose of working to get the party's presidential

tial candidates on the ballot here.
That task is made more difficult by Virginia's ballot access laws, which require that the party collect about 20,000 signatures to get their candidates on the ballots, she said. The state party will be working to get those laws changed.
And it will strive to get candidates for statewide offices here.
"We're ready for state senator, delegate (races) but we're not ready for governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general," she said.
The local unit just organized about a month ago and although members hope they will be finding candidates in local races, they're not ready yet, Ms. Hughes said.
They will concentrate on attending local government meetings and taking positions on local issues, she said.
The main goal is "to get the message out to the public that there's an alternative to the Republican or Democratic parties," she said. "As issues come up at the City Council, the School Board, we'll have a position. Awareness of our existence will creep through to the community."

The party has one local elected official in Virginia, Tom Anderson, who is a member of a local Soil and Water Conservation Commission in the Richmond area. Ms. Turner said.

And it has four local affiliates, three in the 10th District, she said. Fairfax and Prince William counties, which are partly located in the district, have local units, and the new group, which calls itself the Blue Ridge Libertarian Party, in the second, she said.
"I am thrilled to be here," she said. "Nobody anticipated we would have a local affiliate is one of the less practical things of the party. Our eyes are really getting an example for the rest of the state."
Those interested in attending the local party's meetings can contact Ms. Hughes at 877-2119.


Libertarians contest election law reading

Issue: How many votes for ballot spot?

By DAN BILLIN

Valley News

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire is pushing an alternative interpretation of state election law in an effort to regain its place on the ballot — an interpretation that would also qualify Ross Perot's Reform Party for ballot status.

The Libertarian Party lost its ballot status in the November election, when its candidate for governor, Robert Kingsbury, drew only 1 percent of the vote. State law says parties must receive "at least 3 percent of the total number of votes cast for the office of governor" in order to be automatically included on the next ballot.

Libertarian Party Chairman Mark Tunesiewicz says the law can be read to mean that party in which a given primary can satisfy the requirement — as long as the number is greater than or equal to 1 percent of the votes cast in the race for governor.

The Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate, Ken Blevens, received 21,366 votes — not nearly enough to win his race, but well over the 14,843 votes needed to equal 3 percent in the race for governor. Perot drew 14,140 votes in the presidential race.

Tunesiewicz said Blevens pitched the new interpretation last week to New Hampshire's legal counsel, Judy Reardon.

"I understand that they're going to take the matter up with the attorney general's office," Tunesiewicz said. Reardon did not return a call from the Valley News. Although the Libertarians want to avoid a lawsuit, they may take the matter to court if state officials can't be convinced, Tunesiewicz said.

One ballot-access activist says there are two legal precedents for the Libertarians' argument. Vermont had a virtually identical law that was successfully challenged by the Liberty Union Party, which has maintained its ballot status on the same grounds, according to Richard Winger, publisher of the San Francisco-based Ballot Access News.

"If you read the (New Hampshire) law very carefully, you can see that it really is ambiguous," Winger said. "The Vermont Supreme Court disagrees with the New Hampshire secretary of state about how to read a sentence like this." And just recently, the Green Party won ballot status in New Mexico with a similar challenge, according to Winger.

The Libertarians first won ballot status in New Hampshire in 1990 and were able to hold it through the next two elections. Now that they are off the ballot, New Hampshire joins a minority of states without a qualified third party. Winger said. "New Hampshire is one of only 11 states that (doesn't) have a recognized third party right now," he said.