LP enjoys wave of nationwide publicity

Libertarians “ride the wave” as the future of American politics

The Libertarian Party received an unprecedented outpouring of national publicity in the last month or so — appearing in books, newspapers, and magazines across the country and across the political spectrum.

**JULY 25TH:** An article distributed nationally by Hearst Newspapers took Republicans and Democrats to task for ballot access laws that tried to “limit access for third-party or independent challengers,” and quoted LP Director of Communications Bill Winter.

**JULY 24TH:** The Libertarian Party was the cover story in *Insight* magazine, a nationally distributed weekly news magazine with a circulation of about 100,000. The four-page article, entitled “Libertarians Ride the Wave,” was described by LP activists as “accurate and upbeat,” and featured sidebars on the LP platform, Harry Browne, and the Cato Institute. “It is the first cover story about the LP in a national news magazine in the history of the party,” said LP National Chair Steve Dasbach.

**JULY 24TH:** A front-page story about ballot access barriers appeared in the *Christian Science Monitor*, a nationwide newspaper. The article suggested that the recent flurry of new ballot access laws were motivated by Republicans and Democrats interested in “protecting their jobs.” It also quoted Winter, and said the LP was “the closest thing to a real third party that exists in the US today.”

**JULY 30TH:** The Libertarian Party was featured in a nationally-syndicated column from Clarence Page, who declared: “The New Generation is fed up with government, Washington, and the two major parties.”

**AUGUST:** A new book, *Politics on the Net*, published by Que books, mentioned the Libertarian Party’s World Wide Web site. “The book is designed as a non-partisan look at the political resources available on the Internet and the major online services,” said author Bill Mann. The LP’s WWW page, created and maintained by LP activist Joe Dehn, is profiled on page 61 of the book.

**AUGUST:** Fifty-three Libertarian computer bulletin boards were listed in *Boardwatch* magazine, a nationwide magazine for BBS operators. The article noted the wide-open, libertarian orientation of the Internet and other new technologies, and said, “Small wonder that Libertarians are attracted to — and perhaps born in — the online world.”

LP members nearly succeed in ending Selective Service

Several Libertarian Party members were instrumental in a lobbying effort that fell just short of abolishing the $25 million Selective Service System last month. But Scott Kohlhaas, the Executive Director of Volunteers for America (VFA), says they’ll try again next year.

In early July, VFA won a major victory when a Veterans Administration/Housing & Urban Development sub-committee “zeroed out” the Selective Service from the budget. But, just days later, the full House Appropriations Committee restored the money at the urging of Rep. Gerald Solomon (R-NY) on “patriotic” grounds.

“We won’t give up,” promised Kohlhaas, who is also the Membership Coordinator of the National Libertarian Party. “We made more progress this year than ever before. We’ll be back next year to try again.”

VFA is headquartered in Washington, DC, and also includes Libertarian National Committee member Don Ernsberger, who was active in the lobbying effort.

The VFA worked with conservatives who opposed Selective Services on fiscal grounds, “conscientious objector” liberals who opposed the military draft on moral grounds, and the Republican Liberty Caucus.

Although there is currently no military draft, the Selective Service still spends $25 million per year to register young men ages 18 to 25.
THE GENX PHILOSOPHY
Many reject party politics, lean libertarian

The individual should be the primary unit of society.

Continued from 4A:

that's two dominant political parties, the Libertarian Party has seen a 20% growth in membership. For the past year, it has 11,000 dues-paying members. Gene Chaplin, a former Ohio state representative who estimates as many as 40% of the newcomers are people under 30.

But the Generation X libertarian movement stems from the organized political movements, reflecting a gen-

eral disenchantment with the grand governmental institutions created by their parents.

Generation X has less faith in any kind of government than baby boomers ever had, whether it's the presidency or police. USA TODAY/CNN/Gallup polls show that Generation X is more likely to trust the private sector, whether it's parking garages or controlling firearms.

They also sympathize more with budget cuts that cross traditional liberal-conservative lines. They want to cut defense and social programs. But they're turned off by politics. In 1994, they were only as likely to vote as their parents.

And many Generation X members are startlingly apathetic.

Alien X, 21, quit his part-time job at a major law firm to fight marijuana prohibition, working at the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML). He's not a Libertarian Party member, and he doesn't identify as any political party.

"I don't feel like I can get myself arrested," he says, a common Generation X lament. He then adds, "Everyday in this country who enjoys the freedoms of the Internet, whether they know it or not."

Take Stanley Rowe, 23, from the Democratic union town of Saginaw, Mich., and by Cocktails, 23, from a Kansan Republican family.

In Saginaw, Rowe says people look to government to solve all their problems — and it didn't get them anywhere. "It just didn't make sense," he says. "The individual should be the primary unit of society.

In Rowe, he's met his match. He got a business degree from the University of Pennsylvania and now works at Bankers Trust in New York. In his spare time, he mentors Harlem schoolchildren.

"Kids need something to do," Rowe says. "They can parent from their elders, either. Twenty- somethings say they can parent from their elders, but they're turned off by politics. They're far more socially left than people searching your mail."

While his experience, Kevin Foglia says, "The young are very turned off by what they see as a government that only helps the Democratic and Republican party." He says, "The young are more interested in breaking through some new form of government that actually makes a difference, rather than people searching your mail."

Given his experience, Kevin Foglia says, "They're more interested in breaking through some new form of government that actually makes a difference, rather than people searching your mail."

Kevin Foglia, a Philadelphia college professor and best-selling author, sees a libertarian trend among twenty-s somethings he's met. "They're far more interested in breaking through some new form of government that actually makes a difference, rather than people searching your mail."

The quote, "The young are more turned off by what they see as a government that only helps the Democratic and Republican party," is a quote from Kevin Foglia.

Cover Story

Sixties' legacy: 'This monolithic bureaucracy'

By Deirdre R. Schwiesow USA TODAY

Generation X has had enough of baby boomer politics. As disillusioned twenty-somethings see it, Democrats have buried them under '65 baby boom politics. As disillusioned twenty-somethings see it, Democrats have buried them under '65 baby boom politics.

Some tenets of libertarian line

What is a libertarian? A libertarian says government should play a minimal role. They're skeptical of government spending, whether for high- tech weapons or big military programs. And libertarians don't like government bolting into private firms, whether it's handing out patents or controlling firearms.

The one thing that people in their 20s have in common is that they've grown up in a world of big government. And libertarians are trying to solve all of their problems. "We're going to see a mass exodus to a libertarian philosophy of a generation steeped in the precepts of brake-self reliance and the individual freedom of the Internet."

"I don't think there's a lot of difference between Demo- crats and Republicans," says Mauro Whalen, 27, a radio producer in Washington, D.C. "They both want government to perform functions that it has no business performing."

In the Sixties, youth asked the same questions that had been preoccupying them to solve all of their problems. This monolithic bureaucracy that we have today is their legacy — it's their Frankenstein."

Though its numbers are minuscule compared to the na-

The Birmingham News
Birmingham, Alabama, July 22, 1995

Alabama Libertarians get 1996 ballot access

The Alabama Libertarian Party has been granted ballot access for the 1996 election cycle.

Secretary of State Jim Bennett granted the party access earlier this week, after his office verified more than the minimum number of required signatures on the Libertarian petition.

To successfully petition for ballot access, the party needed to present signatures of at least 1 percent of those who voted for governor Alabama's 1994 general election. By Thursday, 12,565 signatures on the petition had been verified.

Party members filed a petition with Bennett's office on May 1, saying it contained 23,110 signatures.
State Libertarian Party chief visits Hazleton

By ED CONRAD
Standard-Speaker Staff Writer

The state chairman of the Libertarian Party visited Hazleton Thursday and brought with him a lot of optimism, patience and persever-
ance.

Ken Sturzenacker of North Catasauqua admits that the party, organized in 1971, is still fighting to gain public acceptance but is buoyed by the belief that favor-
able changes are in the wind.

"The odds are still very long but they're shortening," he said. "All kinds of encouraging things are going on.

The party continues to grow, although membership is still small, it's double what it was a year ago. And already we're on the ballot in 25 states for next year, which is more than all the other parties combined," he added.

Sturzenacker, who earns no salary as state party chairman, needed little persuading to sing the praises of the Libertarian phil-
osophy.

"What distinguishes us from all the other parties?" he asked. "We don't believe in the initiation of force to achieve social or political goals. Everybody else wants to use the power of government.

"We believe, as long as a person's actions are peaceful and honest and in volunteer coopera-
tion with others, nobody outside that relationship is allowed to inter-
terfere with it.

Sturzenacker, who is single and employed in advertising sales in the Lehigh Valley, contends that the present form of government is too big. The Libertarian Party favors increasing individual liberty by limiting government activities and combining a liberal view on per-
sonal freedoms with conservative economic beliefs.

Libertarians believe that govern-
ment is the main threat to in-
dividual liberties and therefore strongly support the rejection of most laws that limit freedom of personal choice. They also feel many govern-
ment policies should be ap-
ded by private firms instead.

Sturzenacker said that if the Libertarian Party had its way, federal government would be "too small, too small, too small or one-fourth its present size."

He said it would offer "far less money for retirement, and there would be fewer lobsters running around seeking favors from politicians that satisfy their own ends and not the public's.

Libertarian opposition govern-
ment aid to — and regulation of — local aid and federal aid for a neutral foreign policy for the U.S., in-
cluding withdrawing from the United Nations, and an end to any

U.S. military role abroad.

Libertarians insist the only function of government should be defense against internal and external aggression. The party favors much lower taxes, less government expenditure, and more reliance on charitable giving rather than govern-
ment welfare.

Libertarians believe that state control of all businesses should be ended and replaced with a free market economy. They favor de-
pendent, competing schools where parents can pay for the school of their child's choice.

"Americans put very little trust in government and with good reason," Sturzenacker said to party literature. "For several decades, the government has been the prin-
ciples of individual liberty and personal accountability, it's only sound foundation for just.

"Americans want — and are living in a political system which respects them as individuals, a system which respects them as individuals who can make their own plans; who can take responsibility for themselves; who are compassionate, and who can face and handle their own problems if allowed to do so.

Sturzenacker said the Liber-
tarian Party offers all that — and more.

"The challenge is to persuade people they can make a difference if they want to," he said.

"What people are beginning to understand is that government doesn't work. What do is it ef-
fectively? From our standpoint, whatever the government does can be done in the private sector while eliminating incredible expenses which have to be borne by taxpayers."

Sturzenacker was visiting nor-
theastern Pennsylvania to orga-
nize registered Libertarian members in Luzerne County.

"There are 70 to 80 registered Libertarians in the county and, since many of them live miles apart, they don't know each other," he explained.

"With the idea of getting org-
ded together and trying to get them together.

For more information about the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania, one may contact Sturzenacker at 800-
774-4487 or write to him at Box 4451, Allenstein, PA, 18105.

Ken Sturzenacker
Third Parties in '96 Face Hurdles

INDEPENDENTS from page 1

It's a trend that's affecting all electoral levels. At a time when Americans are expressing unprecedented interest in independent politics, Republicans and Democrats have joined together in many states to make ballot access more difficult for third-party candidates up and down the slate, from governor to alderman.

“Access was slowly getting easier over the last 10 years, until this year. Then everything went into reverse,” says Richard Winger, publisher of Ballot Access News, a San Francisco-based newsletter.

The legislatures of 13 states considered ballot-access bills judged “hostile” by Mr. Winger this year. Four passed. New Mexico, for instance, doubled the number of signatures minor party candidates need to qualify for ballots, to 1 percent of the state’s last general election vote.

The Perot factor

Call it the Perot Factor. Mr. Perot’s vote-drawing success in the 1992 elections worried many Democratic and Republican party officials. Now the tiny Texas billionaire and his United We Stand America followers are weighing whether to form a full-blown third party. That threatens state-level incumbents from the major parties — perhaps causing them to look for ways of protecting their jobs.

Whenever there has been a third-party candidate for president — such as Ross Perot with George Wallace in the late ’60s — many states pass laws making ballot access more difficult, says Clarence Eagen, an official with the Natural Law Party, a small political organization based in Fairfield, Iowa.

Hurdles to third-party political participation in America were already considerable. According to figures compiled by Ballot Access News, a Democratic candidate for president needs to collect 25,500 signatures to get on the ballot in all 50 states, plus the District of Columbia. A Republican needs 49,250. A third-party candidate needs 718,881.

If a fledging United We Stand America party decides to put up candidates for the United States House of Representatives, it would need to collect 1.6 million signatures nationwide. The big two parties, by way of contrast, need collect only about 140,000.

So what? We’re only talking about signatures here. Surely a few weekends in supermarket parking lots can pull in lots of names, for any potential candidate.

Not really. The collection of valid voter signatures nationwide is a high-cost proposition. Bill Winter, a Libertarian Party spokesman, says “it costs money to run a campaign.”

“For good reason,” says Winter. “The last 30 years many Americans have abstained from election day and general elections.”

Rhode Island legislators asked independent candidates to either petition the secretary of state or have a “sine die” ballot line for each party.

In Alaska, Idaho and New Mexico this year, the legislatures passed bills that make it harder for independent or third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

In another three states, efforts were made to tighten access rules but were defeated. And in one state, Maryland, an attempt to make access easier failed.

Many states pass laws making ballot access more difficult, for independent or third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

In 1966, 44.2 percent of eligible voters were enrolled Democrats, 25 percent were Republicans, and 30 percent were Independents. The remaining eligible voters didn’t bother to enroll.

In 1994, the number of enrolled Democrats dropped to 31.8 percent, the number of Republicans declined to 22.6 percent, and the number of enrolled independent rose to 32.4 percent.

A recent survey by the Times Mirror Center for People and the Press shows that 57 percent of Americans now say they would like to see the creation of a third political party.

Two-party system still on America’s ballot

Despite public preferences, lawmakers try to limit access of third-party or independent rivals

BY VIC OSTROWSKI

Times Union Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Americans say they want more choices when they go to the voting booth, but Republicans and Democrats are trying to make it harder for independent or third-party candidates to get on the ballot.

“It’s pretty depressing after years of improvement,” says Richard Winger, who heads the San Francisco-based Coalition for Free and Open Elections, a group that monitors ballot access issues.

So far this year, three states have made ballot access more difficult, and three others are considering doing so.

In three other states, efforts were made to tighten access rules but were defeated. And in one state, Maryland, an attempt to make access easier failed.

Alaskans, Idahoans and New Mexicans are looking at proposals to do the same.

Alaska moved up its deadline for independent-party candidates to file petitions from August to June, while Idaho has moved up its deadline from June to April. New Mexico doubled the number of signatures an independent or third-party candidate needs to get on the ballot.

In Iowa, lawmakers passed a bill shortening the time by two months in which candidates could file petitions to run for office.

In Arizona, the Legislature approved a measure to impose cumbersome requirements to register a third party and to run as a third-party candidate for governor or U.S. senator.

In New Hampshire, an attempt to require independent parties to register at least 1 percent of the state’s voters to retain a place on the ballot was defeated last month.

“I think what’s happening is a decent action,” says Curtis B. Gena, director of the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate, a non-partisan think tank that keeps track of voter registration and participation.

Gena says American voters “are hungry for the possibility of other choices” and limiting those choices “undermines the political system.”

Bill Winter, a Libertarian Party spokesman, says the legislative efforts in the three states are “a sign that establishment politicians are running scared, determined to strangulate any hope for third parties that will compete with the major parties.”

Notwithstanding Ross Perot, they’re the closest thing to a real third party that exists today, giving any indication he will definitely jump into the Oval Office race.

What does all this mean for, say, Colin Powell? The retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs appears to be seriously considering some sort of political future.

Whither Colin Powell?

What does all this mean for, say, Colin Powell? The retired chairman of the Joint Chiefs appears to be seriously considering some sort of political future. He remains coy in the face of supporter entreaties, neither discouraging them nor giving any indication he will definitely jump into the Oval Office race.

It means he should remember that talking about running for president outside of the two-party system is far easier than actually doing it. A man as well-known and respected as Mr. Powell could probably still mount a credible campaign — but times have changed.

“Every day he waits makes it more unlikely he will be able to get on the ballot in all 50 states,” says the Libertarian Party’s Bill Winter.