

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle®



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April 2004

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'You can fight city hall' LP persuades Idaho town to reject tax-funded arena

Sick of watching their city officials use property tax money to fund a failing sports complex, Libertarians in Nampa, Idaho, recently led city residents to cease funding the fiasco, which has cost the city close to \$50 million over the past nine years.

In an advisory vote Feb. 5, 55 percent of voters in the city called for an end to property tax funding of the facility. Libertarians led opposition to the project, running for office and bringing the issue to the forefront.

The project began in 1994 under the guise of an "urban renewal project," which was to build a \$12 million rodeo arena and provide \$20

million to \$30 million to renovate businesses and homes in the old, rundown north side of town, said

"If urban renewal threatens your town, get on top of it early and beat it to death with a stick."

Patty Hautzinger, a long-time Libertarian activist in the Boise suburb of 66,000 residents.

In Idaho, urban renewal districts

do not have to be voted on by the citizens: A city council can decide what kind of project to do, establish the district, collect property taxes from that district and spend the money as they see fit, all without asking the citizens for input.

Land must be classified as "blighted" to qualify as an urban renewal district in Idaho, so the city council condemned eight square miles of the city as blighted — including a large section of prime agricultural land where the rodeo arena was built, Hautzinger said.

"Within weeks after the city council made this decision, the rodeo arena plan had grown into a

See **OFFICIALS** Page 2

'Recovering Republican' Jerry Cameron runs for Florida House on LP ticket

Jerry Cameron, a long-time law enforcement officer who is running for Florida House District 20 on the Libertarian ticket, has a history of doing business his own way and of making that way successful. He recently stepped down from the GOP's executive committee in his county and switched to the LP.

As chief of police in two small town departments for 11 years — part of a 17-year career in law enforcement — he was a front-line warrior in the War on Drugs. Toward the end of his career he became convinced that the war was a failure and that it actually caused more problems than it solved.

"The simple truth was that not one benefit could be identified and a myriad of unintended consequences [of the drug war] were evident," Cameron says.

"In fact, the war proved counter-productive to every one of its stated goals."

"He was a member of the Libertarian Party about two years ago, but they made him stop when he was named to the Republican executive committee," Florida state LP chair Doug Klippel laughed.

"When I was a member of the LP,

I was still registered as a Republican," Cameron said. "I always believed in Libertarian principles, but I suffered under the delusion that the Republican Party, if reformed, would embrace the same philosophical positions as the Libertarians.

"I thought my energies would be better served trying to reform the Republican Party. After two years of very intense work on the local level in that regard, I became convinced that it would be impossible to reform the Republican Party, even at a local level. The reason for that is, the status quo defense mechanisms are too ingrained: Anyone who goes in and starts talking about principle instead of power is quickly marginalized. I was viewed as a radical."

Things are different with the Libertarian Party, Cameron noted.

"When I told the Republican Party's local leaders that I was interested in running for the state



■ Jerry Cameron: "I always believed in Libertarian principles, but I suffered under the delusion that the Republican Party... would embrace the same philosophical positions as the Libertarians."

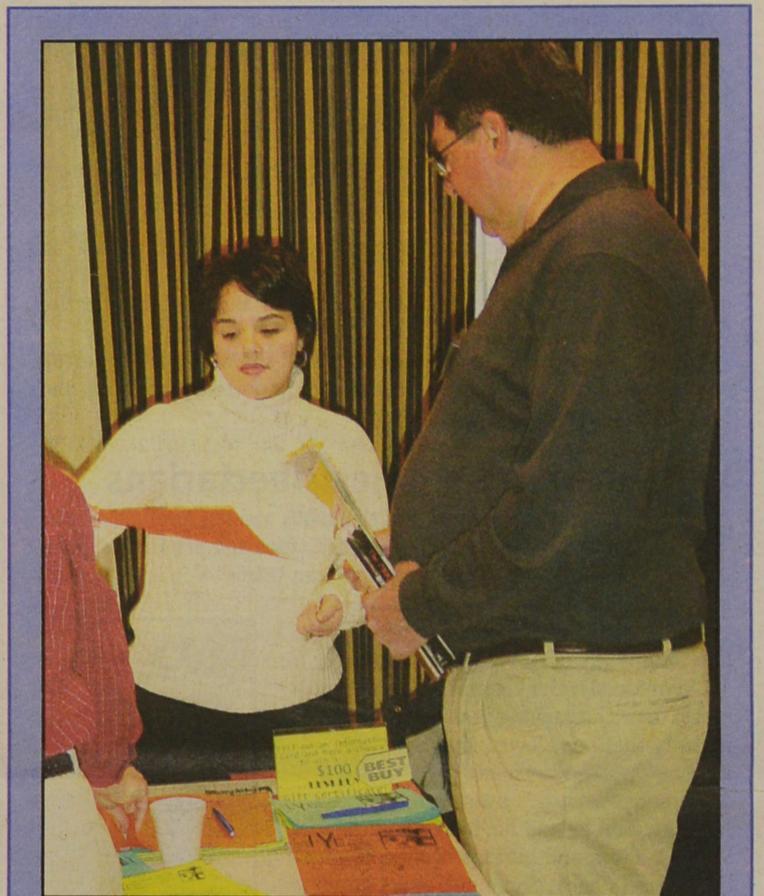
House, they brought in a number of party officials, interviewed me, and every thing they asked was about what I was willing to do, how much money I could raise, how many organizations I belonged to. Nobody asked me about what I believed.

"What it came down to was that the Republican Party wanted someone to win while running under their banner, with no thought to principles. The Libertarian Party wanted someone to run under their banner only if they hold the right principles."

That's what it took to convince him to change sides.

At the Florida LP Convention in February, Cameron was nominated — and elected — as an at-large district director of the LP.

"I couldn't believe I was even nominated," Cameron said. "I was at a loss for words. I stood, said, See **CAMERON** Page 4



■ Jessica Neno Wilson, the national LP's special projects coordinator, distributes information at a Junior Statesmen Association political fair in Washington, DC. At the Feb. 28 event, Wilson and college Libertarian leader Andrew Bradley spoke with approximately 300 high school students from around the Northeast. The previous day, Bradley, Wilson and Executive Director Joe Seehusen spoke to another group of 300 teenagers about the benefits of a free market society and the dangers presented by America's current socio-economic policies. Dozens of students asked for LP literature after the event, they said.

Photo by Andrew Bradley.

College Libertarian leader addresses secretaries of state

A college Libertarian invited to address a voter-education forum sponsored by the National Association of Secretaries of State used the opportunity to deliver a hard-hitting speech demanding ballot fairness for third-party candidates.

"The way to increase voter participation is not to teach people how to vote, but to give them an opportunity to vote for the candidate of their choice — even if that choice does not happen to be a Democrat or a Republican," said Andrew Bradley, a senior at Georgetown University. "When people have real alternatives on the ballot, voter turnout will skyrocket."

Bradley, who is also the Libertarian Party's campus coordinator, was one of five young adults invited to address the Feb. 17 forum, which aired live on C-SPAN. The purpose of the event was to give election officials a youth perspective on how to get more 18- to 24-year-olds to vote.

Much of the panel discussion focused on educating young voters, getting them to polling places and helping college-age people overcome the hurdles that keep them from voting.

But when Bradley took the podium, he gave the audience — which included 14 secretaries of state and See **STUDENT** Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

LP official wants to sweep city hall

City officials in Beaumont, Texas, were recently fined for illegally urging voters to change the city charter, and the local Libertarian Party chair has demanded that those officials resign their posts.

"It's time to clean up city hall," Jefferson County LP chair Allen Lee said in a February meeting in Beaumont, with a broom in hand to emphasize his point.

Lee demanded resignations from mayor Evelyn Lord, city manager Kyle Hayes, and city attorney Lane Nichols, all of whom appeared in a video used on public access television to explain a city charter change election to voters in their town.

But the Texas Ethics Commission ruled recently — following Lee's complaint — that city officials did more than explain; the commission said the video urges voters to approve the proposed changes, and fined the mayor \$500 for her role in it.

The city paid Lord's fine.

Now Lee has filed complaints against Hayes and Nichols as well, and the county district attorney said he will probably take Lord's case to a grand jury. She is charged with a misdemeanor and could face further fines or even jail time.

"When Evelyn Lord came to office she said she was going to restore confidence in city government," Lee said. "It's gotten worse since she's been here, so it's time to clean up."

Volleyball pro studies libertarians

Karch Kiraly became known in the 1980s and 90s as a volleyball god, winning 140-odd pro volleyball titles and playing on three Olympic gold medal-winning American teams — indoors in 1984 and '88, and on the beach in 1996.

Now he can be recognized as potentially libertarian, as well.

John Stossel, the Libertarian co-anchor of ABC news magazine show 20/20, said recently that he received an e-mail from Kiraly — who he considers the "Michael Jordan of volleyball."

Kiraly said he and his family had watched Stossel's show, and his kids begged him to buy Stossel's book. So he did, and he and his wife read it aloud each evening to their children, ages 11 and 13, who are home-schooled.

"I just wanted to say we're really enjoying your books, as I enjoy the writing of other clear thinkers like Thomas Sowell and Walter Williams. Keep up the good work," Kiraly wrote.

"I deal with senators and movie stars, but so what," Stossel said. "The 14-year-old boy in me was most thrilled to learn that Karch Kiraly studies limited government and liberty."



■ Karch Kiraly

Nelson announces for LP treasurer

Iowa LP chair Mark Nelson has announced his candidacy for LP treasurer, pledging to "insist on financial integrity and to improve budgetary construction and reporting."

Current treasurer Bill Redpath, who was appointed in January 2003 to replace Deryl Martin, said he will not run for the office.

Nelson was the primary architect of the current budgeting format and did much of the work on the past two budgets; he said he will continue trying to make LP operations more effective and efficient.

Part of this will include making sure the new Raiser's Edge database system is implemented successfully, "and that the states receive the functionality they have been promised for years," he said.

Nelson was elected to the Iowa LP's executive committee in 1997 and has been state chair since 1999. He has been on the LNC for the past four years, first as an alternate regional representative, and since 2001 as Region 8 Representative. He was



■ Mark Nelson

a member of the Strategic Planning Team in 2001, and has facilitated the past three state chairs' conferences.

In private life, Nelson, 43, has been a commercial real estate appraiser since 1992, and has spent 22 years in the real estate industry. He became an LP member in 1995 and a Life Member in 2002. He has run for school board three times and for state Senate once.

To contact Nelson, call (563) 344-0013, e-mail lpchair@mchsi.com, or mail to: 3434 Forest Road, Davenport, IA 52807

Missouri LP regains Lady Liberty symbol

Pop quiz: What Libertarian symbol is used on ballots in Missouri? What Democrat symbol is used? And what difference does it make?

Since the mid-90s, the Libertarian symbol in Missouri has been Missouri mule Libby Belle instead of the more common Statue of Liberty figure. Democrats have used a Goddess of Liberty as their symbol in the state since the 1920s, instead of the usual donkey.

Libertarian Mitch Moore — who ran for attorney general in 2000 — said various risqué explanations for the seeming symbol swap had been forwarded: "The Democrats stole our Liberty, so we pinched their ass," was one of the more succinct versions, he said.

Some voters in the state have contended for years that the ballot symbols were confusing. And they may be further confused by the end of that confusion this year, as the

Democrats in Missouri join the rest of the donkeys and Libertarians trade in their mule in favor of Lady Liberty.

The Democrats had their donkey on the presidential primary ballot.

"We didn't get our ballot symbol approved in time for the Feb. 3 presidential primary, but we'll have it at the statewide primary in August," said Bob Sullentrup, chair of the Missouri Libertarian Party.

Over Democrats' protests that giving Lady Liberty to the Libertarians was tantamount to handing a time-honored Democrat symbol to the LP, the Missouri secretary of state recently approved the LP's change of ballot symbol.

So at least symbolically, Missouri Libertarians have been given "the opportunity to take our Liberty back," Sullentrup said.

Democrats have used the donkey symbol since Andrew Jackson em-

blazoned it on his presidential campaign posters in 1828, but the two major party symbols — the donkey and the Republican elephant — came to prominence in the 1870s *Harper's Weekly* political cartoons of Thomas Nast.

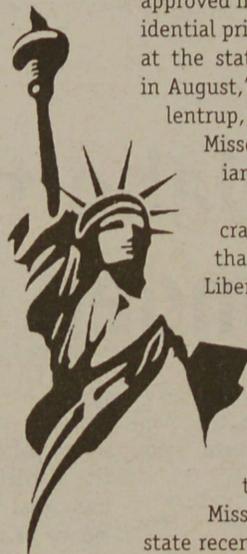
The stylized Statue of Liberty is the LP's national symbol and appears on most Libertarian ballots. However, some states use a porcupine instead.

But in Missouri, Lady Liberty has been given back to the Libertarians, and they are pleased as can be with the situation, said Greg Tlapek, executive director of the Missouri LP.

Historically, one reason for the ballot symbols is to make it easier for illiterate people to vote, Tlapek said.

"We figure that if voters can't read and they vote based on the picture, they ought to get what they vote for," he said.

That means Democrats can resume trying to get donkeys into office, and Libertarians can cast their votes for liberty.



Officials advised to stop funding rodeo arena

Continued from Page 1

full-blown entertainment and sports complex that cost over \$45 million," she said. "Since then they've collected \$66.8 million and spent \$46.4 million on that project."

For the past 10 years, most property taxes collected in the urban renewal district — up to \$10 million per year — have been dedicated to the recreation center, causing taxes for everyone else in town to increase, to make up for the lost city revenue, Hautzinger said.

In addition, the city's taxpayers have been given a bill each year for additional costs just to keep the facility's doors open — including \$1.2 million in 2003 alone.

The urban renewal agency was set to end after 10 years, but by state law, the city council could continue it for up to 14 more years at a tax

cost of up to \$140 million.

Hautzinger — a member of the Idaho LP central committee — and other Libertarians managed to make the agency and its rodeo facility an issue in the mayoral race two years ago, and this November made an even stronger push against the agency.

"When the mayor was elected, he won against an incumbent in the non-partisan race by promising he would not extend the urban renewal agency without an advisory vote by the people," said Ted Dunlap, Idaho LP state chair, who lives near Nampa. "Patty Hautzinger is definitely the spark plug, the energy of that group that fought urban renewal."

In November, 2003, Libertarian Robbi Kier ran for city council, shocking the establishment when she got 33 percent of the vote.

"The incumbent came darn close to losing his seat on the council, and it woke him up," Dunlap said. "Kier didn't win, but she and Hautzinger forced the incumbents to talk about urban renewal, forced them to put it to a vote."

The fight against the failed urban renewal agency is not necessarily over. The city council could vote to ignore the advisory vote, Hautzinger said.

"But they've been asked individually by the press whether they will, and they said they intend to abide by the vote, to follow the wishes of the voters.

"The lesson here is that given enough energy and perseverance, you can fight city hall and win. The warning is, if 'urban renewal' threatens your town, get on top of it early and beat it to death with a stick."

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The Mission Statement of the Libertarian Party: "To move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office."

\$160 million tax defeated

After months of anti-tax advocacy, Libertarians in Bibb County, Ga., saw the result they wanted on Super Tuesday: A proposed new sales tax in the county was voted down, saving taxpayers up to \$160 million.

"The Bibb County LP won a major victory as voters in the county and the City of Macon defeated this special purpose local option sales tax [SPLOST]," county LP chair David Corr said the morning after the March 2 referendum.

Of 19,502 votes cast, 51.56 percent opposed the new tax.

Local politicians had expected to hit taxpayers for between \$140 million and \$160 million by adding the one-cent tax to every dollar spent in the county over the next five years.

Corr had been interviewed on

television, on talk radio and in frequent newspaper articles over recent months, and his Libertarian Web site — www.davidcorr.org — was often referred to as the official site opposing the tax. He launched the anti-SPLOST campaign on his site in mid-January, recording 2,450 hits in six weeks.

"This was a great victory for the citizens and a defeat for entrenched politicians who crave our money," he said.

"When they started talking about the tax, the entire amount was going to be for recreation. Then they planned to spend \$60 million on recreation, \$30 million for expanding and renovating the jail, and something like \$35 million or \$40 million on parking lots and parking decks," with another \$16 million going to retire old bond debt.

"I think it's pretty clear that they would pay off those bonds and just replace them with new bonds, leading to even more taxing and spending," Corr said before the March 2 referendum. "Our local government is already taxing and spending way too much.

"We don't need more taxes. And we don't need government involved in recreation, period."

Corr announced at the Georgia LP Convention Feb. 28 that he intends to run for the state House of Representatives District 107 seat, saying he hopes to take his battle against taxes and for smaller government to the state level.

He ran for mayor of Macon in November, 2003, receiving 25 percent of the vote following a six-week write-in campaign opposing the Democrat incumbent.

Washington LP helps craft replacement for election law

Washington State's primary election system was recently declared unconstitutional by federal court, and Libertarians are helping to craft a replacement for it.

The Libertarian Party has major party status in the state because of strong showings in recent elections, and representatives of the party joined the Democrats and Republicans to get the old primary election system thrown out.

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals said the blanket primary — used in Washington since 1935 — limited political parties' right to choose their own candidates. The state appealed to the Supreme Court, which on Feb. 23 refused to overturn the circuit court ruling.

Washington's blanket primary allowed candidates to run under the political banner of their choice without regard for whether they were affiliated with the party, said John Mills, a former state LP chair who is a member of the group working on new primary rules.

"Our primary election ballot looked very much like a general election ballot," he said. "All candidates were listed and you could vote for your favorite Republican for governor, a Democrat for senate, and for a Libertarian or other candidate for president. It gave us very centrist candidates."

Libertarians didn't like the old primary because it would allow another party's representative to run as a Libertarian, confusing voters as to the LP's true stance, Mills said.

Libertarian, Democrat and Republican representatives banded together to draft a new procedure for primary elections. They hope the state legislature will choose their proposal over the "Cajun primary,"

so-called because it was popularized in Louisiana.

A Cajun primary allows only the top two vote-getters in the primary to go on to the general election. The legislature favors this scheme.

IT WOULD CERTAINLY

be bad for

the voters.

Anytime you

restrict choice, it's

a bad thing.

—JOHN MILLS

"Because of our unique position, coming from minor party status in 2000 to being a major party, we understand what this would do to the fourth parties," Mills said.

"They would be truly destroyed. You would seriously restrict the number of choices voters have in the general election. It might not be bad for us, but it would certainly be bad for the voters; anytime you restrict choice, it's a bad thing."

The political parties are proposing a "modified Montana" primary, which would allow — but not require — voters to register by party. Those who do would be given only their party's ballot in the primary; those who don't would get ballots for all three major parties and select which one to use.

Candidates would have to register with their selected party, and could only file for office if they were endorsed by their party or gathered signatures from at least 5 percent of those voters registered for their

party in the district or state.

Those nominated by minor parties through convention or petition would automatically be included on the general election ballot.

"Most of the options the legislature has come up with have been very negative for anyone except the Democrats and the Republicans, because they allow only the top two candidates in the primary to move up to the general election," said state LP chair Larey McLaren.

Discussions of the new primary system have shown that the LP is no longer viewed as a fringe group in Washington — a result of a concerted effort by Libertarians there, McLaren noted.

"John Mills and Richard Shepard, both prior state LP chairs and both attorneys, have certainly been the primary spokespeople in the discussions, that's for sure."

Mills agreed: "We are being taken seriously by the media. An editorial in the [Tacoma, Wash.] *News Tribune* credits the Libertarian, Democrat and Republican parties with crafting a new primary law. You can't buy advertising like that, being listed on equal footing with the other two major parties.

"And if we can get this three-ballot system through the legislature, we'll be even better off. It would cost us a million dollars, literally, to send a mailing to every unaffiliated voter in the state, and that's what a ballot like that would be."

More than half of Washington's votes are cast by mail, and all unaffiliated voters would receive all three ballots under the proposed primary system.

"Are they going to approve it?" Mills asked. "I think anybody's guess about what's going to come of it is as good as anybody else's."

POLITICS 2004

Urine bust, rebellion opera and more

■ Amateur composer and longtime libertarian **Dick Fuerle**, of **Grand Island, NY** has written a light opera about the Whiskey Rebellion, which occurred in 1794 in western Pennsylvania. A tax was passed on whiskey, leading farmers — who used whiskey as a form of currency — to revolt. George Washington sent an army to put down the rebellion.

As of February there had been no public performance of any of the music, Fuerle said. "I would love to have it performed, especially in Pittsburg, where the Whiskey Rebellion happened. I have been in contact with groups that might want to do it, but so far nothing is scheduled." More info on the music — including "Do it Legally" — is available at www.whiskeyrebellion.com.

■ **Kenneth Curtis**, South Carolina Libertarian candidate for Lt. Governor in 2002, went to jail Feb. 20, to serve a six-month sentence for selling his urine.

Right before he entered the courthouse for his final hearing, he gave one of his urine kits to a **Greenville County** sheriff's deputy at the Greenville County courthouse, saying he was "basically urinating on the steps of the courthouse to prove a point."

Curtis was convicted of selling his "product" to defraud urinalysis drug tests in 2001. He had been out of jail while the case was under appeal. The state Supreme Court refused in 2003 to overturn his conviction.

"I've never given my kits away or sold my kits to anyone who expressed a desire to use them in a test for illegal drugs," he told a television news reporter on camera.

■ **Bruce Wechsler**, chair of the LP of **Brevard, Fla.**, was named the state's activist of the year at the annual convention in February. He was also named Regional Representative for Region 11 (Brevard, Volusia and Flagler) and was appointed to LP Florida's executive committee.

■ **Christopher Davis** threw his hat into the ring as the Libertarian candidate for **Missouri** Secretary of State. **R. Scott Bludorn** announced he will seek the office of State Representative in **Illinois**, to replace incumbent Republican Sidney Mathias in the 53rd legislative district. Bludorn is president of the **Cook County LP**.

■ Libertarian candidates for the **California** seat in the U.S. Senate faced off March 2, with Superior Court Judge **James Gray** defeating former LP California state chair **Gail Lightfoot**. Gray took 57.2 percent of the Libertarian vote for the position, to Lightfoot's 42.8 percent. Gray will face Democrat incumbent Senator Barbara Boxer and Republican challenger Bill Jones in the November election.

■ A *Sarasota Herald Tribune* reporter wrote that Libertarian **Walter Augustinowicz** was favored to win a race for **Florida** State Representative District 71, and made light of the candidate's plan to not take money from PACs, businesses or lobbyists. He dismissed Augustinowicz's campaign as unwinnable. Augustinowicz said he has since seen a jump in online contributions to his campaign.

■ In **Oregon**, 11 Libertarian candidates were nominated for statewide office at the state LP convention on Jan. 24, including **Mitch Shults** for state treasurer; **Christi Feldewerth** for state House of Representatives, District 26; **Marc Delphine** for state Senate, District 19; and state chair **Tom Cox**, for state House District 29. Cox has promised that more Libertarians will be running for legislature.

In **Pennsylvania**, Annville businessman **Russ Diamond** announced his candidacy for the District 101 seat in the state House, saying it "is apparent the voters of the 101st District support Libertarian principles and are ready for a real alternative to candidates from the traditional parties."

■ In **Illinois**, LP state chair **Rhys Read** and treasurer **Julie Fox** resigned at the LP's state organizing committee meeting in January. Former vice chair **W. Guy Finley** was elected to replace Read.

■ Longtime political writer **Hastings Wyman**, a gay-rights activist — and earlier in life, an old-school conservative who spent five years as an assistant to the late U.S. Sen. Strom Thurmond — announced in January that he is now "more Libertarian than anything else." Wyman became an outspoken advocate of gay rights after acknowledging his homosexuality at age 50 and leaving his wife of 21 years. For 10 years he wrote a weekly column, "Capital Letters," about gay rights. The column was syndicated in newspapers across the nation. In December, Wyman retired his column, which he started writing in 1993.

POLITICAL NEWS

California Libertarian wins sixth term

One of the longest-serving Libertarians in public office, Tom Tryon of California, was re-elected March 2, 2004, as one of five Calaveras County supervisors. It will be his sixth term.

Calaveras County is about 130 miles east of San Francisco and has a population of 41,000. Tryon won 54.5 percent of the March 2 vote, beating out challenger Trudy Lackey.

Tryon said he thinks he was re-elected to the non-partisan post because of his "long history and clear record" in service to the county.

Tryon said his biggest challenge over the next four years will be upholding the county's strong financial position, as the state's voters approved a \$15 billion bond to pay off debt, in addition to other budgetary measures.

"I think we are in fine financial condition, absent the state taking funds from us," he said. The state could decide to take money from the county governments instead of cutting services to balance its budget, as state officials promised to do.

But whatever the next four years brings, Tryon said he looks forward to running again at the end of that time. He has been interested in politics since grade school and "fully intends" to run again. "I guess that fire still burns," he said. "I still care very much."

Fed-up Republicans join Libertarians

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) is slated to speak at a South Carolina Libertarian Party dinner on April 2, and the event is drawing support from unexpected quarters.

Cheryl Bates, coordinator of the event, said she hopes to attract Republicans, to show them that "we stand — in principle and action — for what their party proclaims but no longer acts on."

Paul is popular with Libertarians because he refuses to approve any bill not allowed for in the U.S. Constitution.

Among those planning to attend the SCLP dinner: GOP State Senate hopeful Ron Wilson.

"Republicans have broken their Contract with America," says Chris Panos, who recently defected from the Republican Party to the LP. Panos managed many Republican campaigns before he switched to the LP, and he was a Midwest Director for Ronald Reagan's presidential campaign.

And it's not only Republicans who are shifting sides.

Steve Cain, who ran several times for office as a Democrat, joined the LP about a year ago, LP activist R.E. Sutherland said.

Asked why he made the flip, Cain said: "I did not leave the Democratic Party. They left me."

Will Paul help recruit more Republicans to libertarianism, or to the LP itself? That's what South Carolina Libertarians are counting on.

For more information on the event, call (803) 657-3442, visit www.sc.lp.org, or e-mail events@sc.lp.org.

Gary Nolan wins California primary

Gary Nolan handily defeated two challengers for the Libertarian Party's nomination for president in California's March 2 Libertarian primary, winning 58.8 percent of the vote.

"I want to thank all the voters who supported me in California and I hope we can carry the momentum on to the national convention in Georgia," Nolan said.

Coming in second was Hollywood producer Aaron Russo with 24.7 percent, followed by Texas Libertarian Michael Badnarik with 16.5 percent.

It appeared that Badnarik had won the Wisconsin primary on February 17 with just nine votes more than Nolan, but the Wisconsin Elections Board certified the results on March 5 and reported that Nolan had won by 76 votes, with 1,490 to Badnarik's 1,414.

In the early February Missouri primary, Nolan took 874 votes (45.2 percent), beating Ruben Perez (8.5 percent) and Jeffrey Diket (7.9 percent). A hefty percentage (38.5 percent) of Libertarian voters said they were uncommitted at that time.

The Libertarian Party's presidential candidate will be selected by delegates at the national convention in Atlanta, May 27-31.

Student blasts secretaries of state at voter education conference

Continued from Page 1
several deputy secretaries — an unexpected perspective on voter turnout.

"People are jumping to a conclusion if they believe that low voter turnout is a result of a lack of voter education," he said. "We know exactly who's on the ballot. That's just the problem!"

Bradley argued that on most major issues—including Social Security, the federal budget, the War on Drugs and military intervention—Democratic and Republican candidates are saying almost the same things, depriving voters of a real choice.

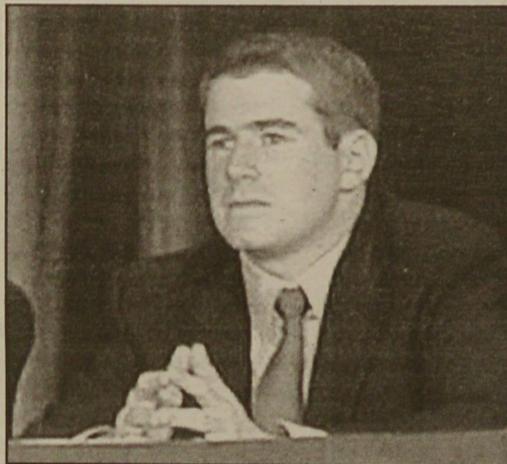
"When both candidates agree on the issues, your vote really is wasted. That's why so many young people stay home," he said.

Then he detailed a case illustrating how government officials themselves abuse their power by depriving Americans of the right to vote for third-party candidates.

In January, Ohio's Republican secretary of state, Kenneth Blackwell, invalidated 57,000 signatures collected by the Ohio Libertarian

Party on a technicality, knocking dozens of candidates off the November ballot in the process.

"We submitted more than twice the number of signatures needed, yet Blackwell decided on a technicality to invalidate each and every one of them," Bradley said. "The man charged with upholding the rights of Ohio voters disenfranchised 57,000 of them with the stroke of a pen."



■ Andrew Bradley: "I think it's a bit hypocritical for election officials to complain about low voter turnout when they're the ones throwing voting petitions in the trash!"

"I think it's a bit hypocritical for election officials to complain about low voter turnout when they're the ones throwing voting petitions in the trash!"

Bradley concluded by putting the onus for improving voter turnout back on the officials sponsoring the conference, rather than on voters themselves.

Noting that the secretaries of state have the responsibility in many states to make ballot access fair and equitable, he encouraged them to "go out and fix the problem" by treating third parties fairly.

After the conference, Bradley said he got "an icy glare" from one of the organizers of the event.

"Apparently he was expecting me to mouth the same platitudes as the other participants, and was a bit surprised by my speech," he said.

Other panelists included representatives of the College Democrats of America, the College Greens Network, the College Republican National Committee, and the federal Voting Assistance Project for military and overseas voters.

Cameron runs for Florida House

Continued from Page 1

"My name is Jerry Cameron. I am a recovering Republican, and I have been rational for 35 days. I had only been a registered Libertarian for 35 days at that time. This was a great honor for me."

A graduate of the FBI National Academy, the DEA Basic Drug Enforcement Course and two advanced DEA institutes, Cameron has been published in several law enforcement journals. He taught police ethics, management and drug interdiction at the University of North Florida's Institute of Police Technology and Management.

He also has government experience, having served as interim city manager of Fernandina Beach, Fla., for a period in the late 1980s, and as public works director.

He now lives in St. Johns County, about 30 miles south of Jacksonville.

"Since leaving law enforcement in 1991 I have been managing small businesses," he said. "I have become a consultant in doing turnarounds for small businesses" including such disparate ventures as a scuba instructor school, a marina, a motorcycle shop, and a water sports facility in Grenada.

His most recent public function showed how much good one Libertarian can do in office, Klippel said.

"Jerry was on the St. Johns County Planning and Zoning board

GOVERNMENT
.....
fails when it tries
.....
to do too much.
.....
We proved that
.....
with the
.....
War on Drugs.

—JERRY CAMERON

until he resigned that position in the middle of February to seek elected office," he said.

"It was a non-partisan, appointed position, and while he was on that board he actually got the other members to change their way of thinking. He has been a very eloquent opponent of eminent domain and was very effective."

Cameron is also chair of the St. Johns County chapter of the LP, "and in the past three weeks, while campaigning, he has added about 45 new Libertarian registered voters in his county, as well as raising about \$9,000 in three weeks," Klippel added, noting that he expects Cameron to do very well in the race.

"The incumbent, Doug Wiles, is a Democrat who is being term-limited out of office. Because the Democrats have decided not to field a candidate, Cameron's only opponent is

Wiley Deck, a very young Republican with no practical experience. I don't think Deck has a chance against someone with Cameron's background."

Cameron says he is running to win, and intends to continue his fight for common-sense government in the state House.

A large government is an inefficient government, he believes, and he wants to eliminate much of the state government's power, allowing communities to make decisions for themselves.

"Government fails when it tries to do too much," Cameron said. "We proved that with the War on Drugs."

Klippel claims partial credit for bringing Cameron into the LP: "When we met about three and a half years ago, he was struggling with seeing the Republican Party abandon its conservative roots. He wanted to stay with that party and try to turn it around, but he finally found his home and joined the LP."

"I've often thought that if some Libertarians had played hardball with him, or if someone called him stupid for his association with the Republican Party, he might not have come back. We need to realize that people have to make their own way to the party."

"If this is where they belong, give them time. They'll make it home."

A call from Tim O'Brien for the LP to help PATCH THE CRACK IN THE LIBERTY BELL!

We Libertarians know that the enduring strength of our American system has come from commitment to the libertarian principles upon which it was founded.

Freedoms of speech and press, protections against unreasonable searches and double jeopardy – these are the kinds of limited government concepts that have become a beacon of liberty to the world.

Our country has lost her moral authority and prestige in direct proportion to how much she has compromised her noble principles.

A Crucial Crack

Of all the libertarian ideas that the founders crafted into the United States, none has been so contentious or so compromised as guaranteeing everyone "equal protection of the laws." Nor has any compromise proven so divisive or costly.

Indeed, this flaw could rightly be regarded as the crack in the liberty bell.

From the Beginning

Ominously, the compromising started right out with our country's birth announcement, the fabled Declaration of Independence. The Continental Congress reduced Jefferson's list of 28 grievances against King George by only one – the complaint that the monarch was "determined to keep open a market where MEN should be bought & sold." This was a political concession necessary to make the southern colonies a part of the "United" States of America.

A dozen years later our much admired Constitution was stained by the most surreal of all compromises – counting blacks as 3/5 of a person. It also included a twenty-year moratorium on even addressing the issue of slavery.

After another decade of debate, in 1820 Congress struck a "Missouri Compromise" on whether new states would

be admitted to the union as slave or free.

Ultimately, this one fared no better than its predecessors. Only a few decades later the country finally resorted to the ultimate political solution – war. After a brutal, four-year conflict, we finally got the 14th Amendment, ostensibly guaranteeing "equal protection of the laws" to all.

The Courts, the Congress, the President

But it didn't end there either. The battle simply returned to the three branches of the federal government.

The US Supreme Court (that had ruled in the pre-civil war *Dred Scott* case that runaway slaves were property that must be returned to their rightful owners) has been a fount of indecision. Among its more famous flip-flops, the learned nine have ruled that "separate but equal" was acceptable (*Plessy v. Ferguson*, 1896), and then that "separate is inherently unequal" (*Brown v. Board of Ed*, 1954).

Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibiting (private sector) discrimination based on people's physical characteristics.

President Johnson and his successors issued a string of executive orders creating programs that came to be called "affirmative action," leading to another half century of litigation over "reverse discrimination."

Finally, last summer, the US Supreme Court ruled in the *Gratz v. Bollinger* and *Grutter v. Bollinger* cases that while the University of Michigan may not overtly use racial criteria in its admissions policy, it could continue to consider race as long as the specifics weren't explicit.

Still, There's Hope

But while the 14th Amendment may have been contorted out of all recognition, the 10th Amendment is still suffi-

ciently healthy that we Michiganders can constitutionally hold our own state and local governments to a higher standard of conduct.

A Former LP State Chair Enters the Fray

Within hours of the US Supreme Court decision in the U of M cases I e-mailed Ward Connerly, the man whose Prop 209 put an end to government discrimination in California, asking for his help in Michigan.

And the Michigan Civil Right Initiative was born:

A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO PROHIBIT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN AND OTHER STATE UNIVERSITIES, THE STATE, AND ALL OTHER STATE ENTITIES FROM DISCRIMINATING OR GRANTING PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT BASED ON RACE, SEX, COLOR, ETHNICITY, OR NATIONAL ORIGIN

"Now is the Time for All Good Men..."

Here is an unprecedented set of circumstances:

- A solidly libertarian issue that professional polls show has 2 to 1 voter support.
- A huge political void left by the Democrats (who must pander to their pro affirmative action constituency) and Republicans (who don't want this issue on the same ballot with their vulnerable, incumbent president).
- The LPM with an existing infrastructure of geographic affiliates, and a whole slate of candidates running for office in the fall elections.

I started lobbying everyone in LPM leadership – pointing out the unprecedented opportunity for our party.

But even my most optimistic predictions greatly underestimated public response to this issue.

The outpouring of voter support following our January kick-off press conference was overwhelming.

Within three days MCRI received literally hundreds of telephone calls requesting petitions. There were more than 10,000 hits on the website, including more than 3,000 downloads of the petition form.

And all of this despite (hostile) media coverage that provided almost no contact information.

There is no question that MCRI has the popular support. But the simple logistics of collecting 317,757 signatures of registered voters by Independence Day are daunting. We need your help!

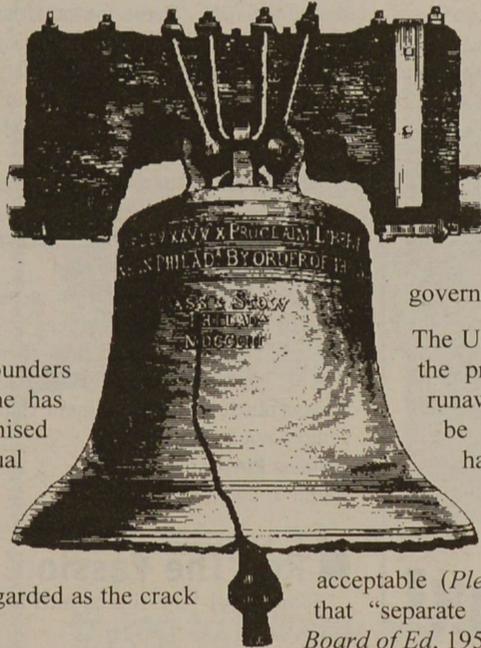
The Challenge, and the Solution

Both major parties, business and labor, the media – essentially the entire establishment – is fighting this. So our cause is getting virtually no publicity. We need to communicate directly with voters to distribute and collect petitions. That means sending direct mail using lists from libertarian-leaning magazines and think tanks, as well as mass media advertising to the general public.

There is no question that this proposal to truly guarantee "equal protection of the laws" in the Michigan Constitution moves peoples' hearts and minds.

But we can't reach them politically, if we can't reach them at all.

Please visit our website, call our phone number, or use the reply form to help your Libertarian compatriots in Michigan put meaning behind the words "liberty and justice for all."



Yes, I want to help MCRI end discrimination in Michigan!

My contribution of:

\$1,000 * is enclosed

\$ 100 Please bill my: Name on Card: _____

\$ 20 Visa

\$ _____ * MasterCard Card #: _____ Expires: ____/____

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____

*For contributions over \$100, MI law requires that you provide the following:

Occupation: _____

Employer: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Paid for with regulated funds by the

Michigan Civil Rights Initiative

PO Box 1818, Southgate, MI 48195

Contributions are not tax deductible

For more information go to

www.MCRI2004.org

or call

313-550-9000



TALKING POINTS

Life on Mars, sexy ads, and Dave Barry for president

■ Age discrimination

The Supreme Court ruled Feb. 24 that younger workers can't sue their employers when older colleagues get preferential treatment.

In a 6-3 decision that affects tens of millions of workers, the justices said the law that protects older employees from age discrimination doesn't apply in reverse.

The Supreme Court ruled in a case brought in 1997 by about 200 General Dynamics Corp. workers, all in their 40s, who claimed they suffered a type of reverse discrimination because they were too young to get benefits being offered to colleagues age 50 and over.

The workers, who had the backing of the Bush administration, claimed they were protected by the 1967 Age Discrimination in Employment Act, which forbids age discrimination of any worker 40 or older.

Justice David H. Souter, the decision's author, wrote: "In a world where younger is better, talk of discrimination because of age is naturally understood to refer to discrimination against the older. ... The enemy of 40 is 30, not 50."

Dennis Cline, one of the workers in the case, said the ruling will hurt people in their 40s and 50s, who are easy targets for corporate cuts.

—GINA HOLLAND
Associated Press
February 24, 2004

■ Cost-benefit ratio

Canada's gun registry was originally projected to cost about \$2 million Canadian. But the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. has found that, so far, the government has spent some \$2 billion on the system, which was started in the mid-1990s. The government is rejecting calls from gun owners to scrap the registry.

—CHARLES OLIVER
Reason online
March 5, 2004

■ Emperor's naked

Alan Greenspan may have touched the third rail of American politics this week by calling for cuts in Social Security benefits, but most economists weren't shocked.

Some found his proposals just about right, some thought the whole fuss was much ado about nothing.

But some conservative economists, who believe Social Security needs a drastic overhaul, thought the 77-year-old central bank chief's proposals didn't go far enough.



Enjoy better sex!

Legalize and Tax Marijuana.

www.changetheclimate.org

"He's just saying the emperor's naked," Alan Reynolds, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, told CNN. "It would be nice to keep this Ponzi scheme going on at least until after the November elections, and they probably will — but it is a long-term problem."

—MARK GONGLOFF
CNN.com
February 26, 2004

■ Cop contest

A contest between two police officers in a small Georgia town to see which one could issue the most traffic tickets was stopped by a judge who overheard the apparent winner talking about it, the mayor said.

Part-time Porterdale, Ga., police officers Erin Cox and Frank Jackson wrote about 150 tickets in January, which was significantly higher than in previous months, Mayor Paul Oeland said. Both officers were asked by City Manager Tom Fox to resign by Friday, Oeland said. They had been with the department less than a year, he said.

—ASSOCIATED PRESS
March 2, 2004

■ Drug war censorship

Representative Ernest Istook (R-Okla.) has discovered a mortal threat to the republic. The threat is a display ad placed by a pro-drug legalization group, Change the Climate, Inc., on Washington D.C.'s bus and subway system. The ad

THE FIRST AMENDMENT
.....
might become
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the most prominent
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example of
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'collateral damage'
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in the
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war on drugs.

showed a young couple, with the caption: "Enjoy Better Sex! Legalize and Tax Marijuana."

And to deal with this outrage, Istook has introduced a measure to financially penalize Washington's Metro transit authority for running the ad. Moreover, Istook's bill would prohibit any transit system that receives federal funds from running advertising from a group that advocates decriminalizing or legalizing marijuana.

This is hardly the first time that the blackjack of withholding federal funds has been used to coerce recipients into embracing pet policies of politicians, but it has to be one of the more odious. Istook's bill shows utter contempt for the First Amendment, and indeed for the entire concept of political debate.

But drug warriors have repeatedly showed their intolerance of opposing views—and their eagerness to use the power of government to suppress critics. The First Amendment might become the most

prominent example of "collateral damage" in the war on drugs.

—TED GALEN CARPENTER
Cato Daily Commentary
January 9, 2004

■ All bets are off

Some British bookies this week stopped taking bets on whether life once existed on Mars after a NASA probe found evidence that the Red Planet once had a wet climate. "Following the latest news from NASA, we think it is now likely that evidence of past life on Mars will be found in the coming years," Ladbrokes spokesman Warren Lush said.

The odds on past life on Mars were 16 to 1 when the book closed, down from 1,000 to 1 when the first bets were taken in the 1970s.

NASA scientists said this week that its Opportunity rover has indicated there is strong evidence that at least one part of Mars had a persistently wet environment that could have sustained life.

—ARIZONA REPUBLIC ONLINE
March 5, 2004

■ Re: 'The Passion'

[Some say] "the film is anti-Semitic."

Look for it, and I'm sure you'll find it. The high priest Caiaphas and his crew come across as brutal and conniving, but those who would make a case for anti-semitism from that depiction must then close their eyes to the fact that Jesus, his mother, his disciples, Veronica (who wipes blood from Christ's face), Simon of Cyrene, the thieves on their crosses, and all the others who were grieving for Christ as he carries his cross were Jewish.

—JEFF MINICK
Smoky Mountain News
March 3, 2004

■ Social injustice

The signature of modern leftist rhetoric is the deployment of terminology that simply cannot fail to command assent. As Orwell himself recognized, even slavery could be sold if labeled "freedom." In this vein, who could ever conscientiously oppose the pursuit of "social justice," — i.e., a just society?

What is "social justice"? The theory that implies and justifies the practice of socialism. And what is "socialism"? Domination by the State. What is "socialized" is state-controlled. So what is "totalitarian" socialism other than total socialism, i.e., state control of everything? And what is that but the absence of a free market in anything, be it goods or ideas? Those who contend that a socialist government need not be totalitarian, that it can allow a free market — independent choice, the very source of "inequality"! — in some things (ideas) and not in others (goods — as if, say, books were one or the other), are saying only that the socialist ethic shouldn't be applied consistently.

This is nothing less than a confession of moral cowardice. It is the explanation for why, from Moscow to

Managua, all the rivalries within the different socialist revolutions have been won by, not the "democratic" or "libertarian" socialists, but the totalitarians, i.e., those who don't qualify their socialism with antonyms. "Totalitarian socialism" is not a variation but a redundancy, which is why half-capitalist hypocrites will always lose out to those who have the courage of their socialist convictions. (Likewise, someone whose idea of "social justice" is a moderate welfare state is someone who's willing to tolerate far more "social injustice" than he's willing to eliminate.)

There will never be any kind of equality — or real justice — as long as a socialist elite stands behind the trigger while the rest of us kneel before the barrel.

—BARRY LOBERFELD
FrontPageMagazine.com
February 27, 2004

■ Nothing to hide

Some 30 Florida news outlets sent staffers posing as ordinary citizens into 234 local agencies in 62 of Florida's 67 counties to see how they complied with the state's open records law. About 40 percent of those agencies either didn't comply

**"THE SMALLEST
MINORITY
ON EARTH IS THE
INDIVIDUAL."**

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Bill Redpath at: (703) 802-2978. Or e-mail him at: wredpath@his.com.



at all or made unlawful demands of information seekers.

Broward County administrator Roger Desjarlais allegedly told one staffer "I can make your life very difficult." After insisting that the volunteer give his name, Desjarlais used the Internet to identify the volunteer, find his cell phone number and call him after work hours.

Gov. Jeb Bush's own office failed to comply with state law.

—CHARLES OLIVER
Reason online
March 8, 2004

■ Third party needed

Number of press conferences at which President Bush has referred to a question as a "trick": 11.

Chance that an American believes a "major" third political party is needed: 2 in 5.

—HARPER'S INDEX
Harper's Magazine
January, 2004

■ Campaign promises

Yes, voters, I trust you, because I am one of you. I even talk like you. For example, when I'm campaignin' in the South, I leave the G's off the ends of words, and I use old country expressions that express the home-spun wisdom acquired by rural people over years of drinkin' contaminated groundwater, such as: 'Don't light a match 'til you know which end of the dog is barkin'.' As your president, I will govern the nation, or at least the South, with those words, whatever they may mean.

Voters, I have the same values, morals, religious beliefs, ethnic background and number of children as you. We even have the same blood type! If I am elected president, and you ever need blood, or an organ, you just come to the White House, and I will immediately hang up the Hot Line phone, and, bam, I will give you a kidney, lung, pancreas, liver segment, whatever you need, no questions asked. Name me one other candidate, besides Dennis Kucinich, who has made that promise.

Of course this is not enough for the so-called "news media," which as we know is dominated by left wingers; or, if you prefer, right wingers. The point is, they are wingers, and they are always nosing around, asking questions, trying to make me reveal intimate details about my personal life, such as which party do I belong to, and do I have a domestic or foreign policy. Well you can call me a man of deep moral principles if you want, but I happen to believe that even a presidential candidate is entitled to a "zone of privacy" covering his political beliefs, criminal record, recreational use of household chemicals and Internet purchases of inflatable sheep.

—DAVE BARRY
Tribune Media Services
February 17, 2004

■ Good publicity

Percentage change between 2001 and 2002 in Saudi Arabia's PR spending in the United States: 1,700+.

Ratio of the number of bias crimes against Jews to those against Muslims reported in the U.S. in 2002: 6:1.

—HARPER'S INDEX
Harper's Magazine
February 2004

■ What's in a name?

After consulting the dictionary, I have quit using the phrase "Democrat Party" in favor of the preferred "Democratic Party," but I'm still not comfortable with it.

My dictionary clearly endorses

the name Democratic Party, explaining that it descended from the Democratic-Republican Party (circa 1830), which was developed from the Republican Party, led by Thomas Jefferson. In that case, Democratic modified Republican, not Party. But, when Republican was dropped, the adjective suffix "ic" stayed on Democrat as the preferred usage with "Party."

I suspect that decision was either an accidental grammatical error that has lived through the ages, or it was an intentional anomaly designed for its subliminal propaganda

effect — to suggest that the Democratic Party is more democratic than the Republican Party.

I had adopted the phrase "Democrat Party" because it sounds more like every other usage when a proper noun modifies a noun.

Republicans belong to the Republican Party. Libertarians belong to the Libertarian Party. When I go to the restaurant and the hostess calls me to my table, she calls for the "Bristol Party of two." I am a member of the Bristol family. Catholics are members of the Catholic Church.

If the proper noun becomes an adjective, rather than part of a noun phrase, I suppose it can legitimately take on the adjective suffix, even if it is the exception to the rule. If not, then the term Democratic Party is either an accidental or intentional grammatical error that should be corrected, in the interest of accuracy.

It may take a committee of English professors to settle this important matter.

—RALPH BRISTOL
CommonVoice.com
February 3, 2004



What are 2,679 people every day trying to tell you and me about our movement for liberty?

very day, over 3,600 people take our world-famous **World's Smallest Political Quiz** online.

In fact, on average, 3,614 people. *Every day.*

Why? Many are intensely interested in political ideas and in the ideas of liberty. They're worried about rising threats to freedom. They want to better understand libertarianism. They want to know more about politics.

Over 33% of them score Libertarian on our Quiz — **that's over 1,200 per day.**

And they are excited!

- ★ Excited to learn about a vibrant, thriving movement for liberty.
- ★ Excited to learn that they're not alone.
- ★ Excited to learn that, as so many say, "...there's a *name* for what I've always believed!"
- ★ Excited because, at last, they have found a political home — libertarianism — and they've found hope that the glorious vision of liberty-for-all at the heart of the American dream can indeed be fulfilled.

In all, over 2.4 million people have now taken the Word's Smallest Political Quiz online! Over two million people exposed to libertarian ideas in a positive, eye-opening way. Over two million people exposed to a new political map that includes libertarians.

Many of the thousands who visit our site every week are excited to discover a cause they can believe in — and dedicate their lives to.

And they are eager to tell their friends, their neighbors, the whole world about it!



The good news doesn't stop there.

These 33%-plus who score Libertarian, along with others who express an interest in learning more about liberty, have just taken a first step in a carefully-developed Advocates three-step program to build a mass movement of persuasive, knowledgeable libertarian activists. Here it is in a nutshell:

We (1) discover new libertarians and libertarian-leaning folks, online and off, in many different ways; (2) give them the information they need to fully understand and embrace the ideas of liberty; and (3) give these new libertarians (and veteran libertarians, too) the training, tools, information and encouragement they need to become powerful and effective advocates of the ideas of liberty — so they can become active in the libertarian movement and, in turn, find new libertarian-leaning folks to bring to Step 1... thus keeping the process going, with ever-larger numbers.

And every time the cycle turns, the numbers increase. We are discovering new libertarians — and creating the activists of today and tomorrow — every day.

Does this sound exciting? Become a part of it!

Visit our Web site to learn more. Discover the tested and proven Advocates tools, training, and information that can help you become a highly effective libertarian activist.

See our strategy for libertarian victory in action! Subscribe to our free email newsletter, *The Liberator Online*, the largest-circulation libertarian publication in the world, with over 60,000 subscribers in over 100 countries.

We're devoted to making libertarian outreach and education effective, successful, and fun! *Join us!*



Advocates for Self-Government

Serving the libertarian movement for over 18 years!

www.TheAdvocates.org

AFFILIATE NEWS

Libertarians review judges, fight mandatory breathalyzer

■ CALIFORNIA

Presenting facts is not enough

Libertarians in Santa Clara and San Benito counties were disappointed when a property tax hike that will cost taxpayers \$108 million was approved March 2.

The bond issue will fund construction at Gavilan College in Gilroy, Calif. The county LP opposed both the projects and the bond as unnecessary and ill-considered.

The LP also opposed six other Santa Clara ballot measures. Two of them — a county-wide library tax and a school district tax — were defeated.

If more Libertarians in the county had voted, Measure E and some other measures could easily have been voted down, Hinkle said, noting that the measure needed 55 percent approval to pass. In the two-county Gavilan College district it was approved by 56.03 percent of the 26,193 voters.

The measure would have failed if

300 more people had voted against it. In Santa Clara County alone, Hinkle said, there are 5,509 registered Libertarian voters and only 1,563 of them — 28.37 percent — voted on March 2. By contrast, 37.74 percent of registered Democrats and 36.95 percent of registered Republicans voted.

"So, while the local LP thought it important to oppose these seven different tax increases (and wrote arguments against six of them), it's clear that arguments alone won't stem the tide of tax increases, even if our arguments are sent to all voters," Hinkle said.

■ CALIFORNIA

Proposition 56 defeated

California voters turned down a proposition — Prop. 56 — March 2 that would have allowed the state Legislature to approve tax hikes with only a 55 percent majority vote, instead of the two-thirds majority now required by the state

constitution.

The Libertarian Party of California joined many other anti-tax groups and hundreds of businesses and individuals to oppose four statewide propositions including Prop. 56, also known as the Budget Accountability Act.

Proponents of the act downplayed the 55 percent vote requirement to approve taxes, choosing instead to highlight the fact that it would also have allowed a state budget to be approved with only 55 percent approval in the legislature.

A poll by the Public Policy Institute of California before the vote showed 73 percent of voters supported keeping the two-thirds requirement to increase taxes.

The proposition would also have forced the governor and legislators to forfeit their salaries for every day the budget is late, and would have established a rainy day fund to better manage state finances.

But if it had been approved, the state government would have had no impetus to cut their budget

waste and deliver a budget on time each year, Libertarian opponents of the measure warned. The Legislature could have simply raised taxes to cover any "shortfall" in a budget year.

Prop. 56 was merely the worst of four propositions voters were asked to approve, said Lawrence Samuels, vice chair of the Monterey County LP.

The other three propositions were approved: Prop. 55, which authorized \$12.3 billion for school building construction; Prop. 57, a \$15 billion bond to refinance California's debt; and Prop. 58, which requires a balanced state budget but doesn't call for any spending limits.

■ COLORADO

Anti-First-Amendment bill considered

The Colorado Legislature is considering a law that would make it a crime to show any material with sexual content to anyone under 18. The state's Libertarian Party opposes the bill, saying it duplicates existing laws and would damage First Amendment rights.

It could lead to banning art and literature classics — even the Bible, if taken to its logical conclusion, some say.

Colorado already has laws protecting minors from the sale of obscene materials as defined by community, state and national standards.

The proposed bill — House Bill 1078 — goes further by making it illegal for any "play, dance or exhibition displaying pictures, drawings, video recordings, films, books or magazines to depict nudity or sexual activity" to a person who is under 18 years old.

The law requires bookstores, museums, libraries and theaters that sell or merely display any "real or perceived depictions of sexuality or sexual activity" to require identification before showing such materials to any patron, to ensure that the viewer is 18 or older, said Norm Olsen, chair of the Colorado LP.

"There are sexually explicit materials all around us," Olsen said. "Will libraries now require identification before checking out Shakespeare or even the Holy Bible? Will museums now require identification before allowing individuals to view Leonardo da Vinci's 'David'?"

The statue of David is a nude, so minors could be prohibited from viewing it. The Bible contains references to rape, adultery, bestiality and other sexual material, so it could potentially be banned for anyone under 18, given the proposed law's sweeping language.

The Colorado LP is encouraging anyone concerned about First Amendment rights to contact their senators and ask them to reject the bill, which would make "criminals out of businesses or individuals for doing nothing more than leaving a bare breast in plain view, even if it's a museum," Olsen said.

"Parents should be left to determine whether performances or materials are too explicit for their minor children."

■ INDIANA

Libertarians named to judicial review

Three Indiana Libertarian activists have been appointed to the Indianapolis Bar Association's judicial review committee, which evaluates trial judges in the state's capital.

"It is great that Libertarians will have influence with this very respected and important PAC [political action committee]," said Mark Rutherford, chair of the Indiana LP.

Judicial evaluations are required to come from a PAC — not directly from the bar association — which raises money to survey of all the attorneys in Indianapolis. The PAC will review current superior, circuit and small claims court judges and give recommendations on any challengers for those positions.

There are 11 appointees on the board: four Republicans, four Democrats and three independents.

"All three 'independents' — Pfenne Cantrell, Michael Caudill and Jame Goldstein — were selected from a list of five Libertarian attorneys I suggested," Rutherford said.

"This is a good way to get these people recognized and respected in the community. Caudill and Goldstein both ran in the past for Superior Court, and this is a good way to get their names out there more."

"You start getting people on boards, and these are the future elected officials. The level of respect for our candidates can only grow because of this."

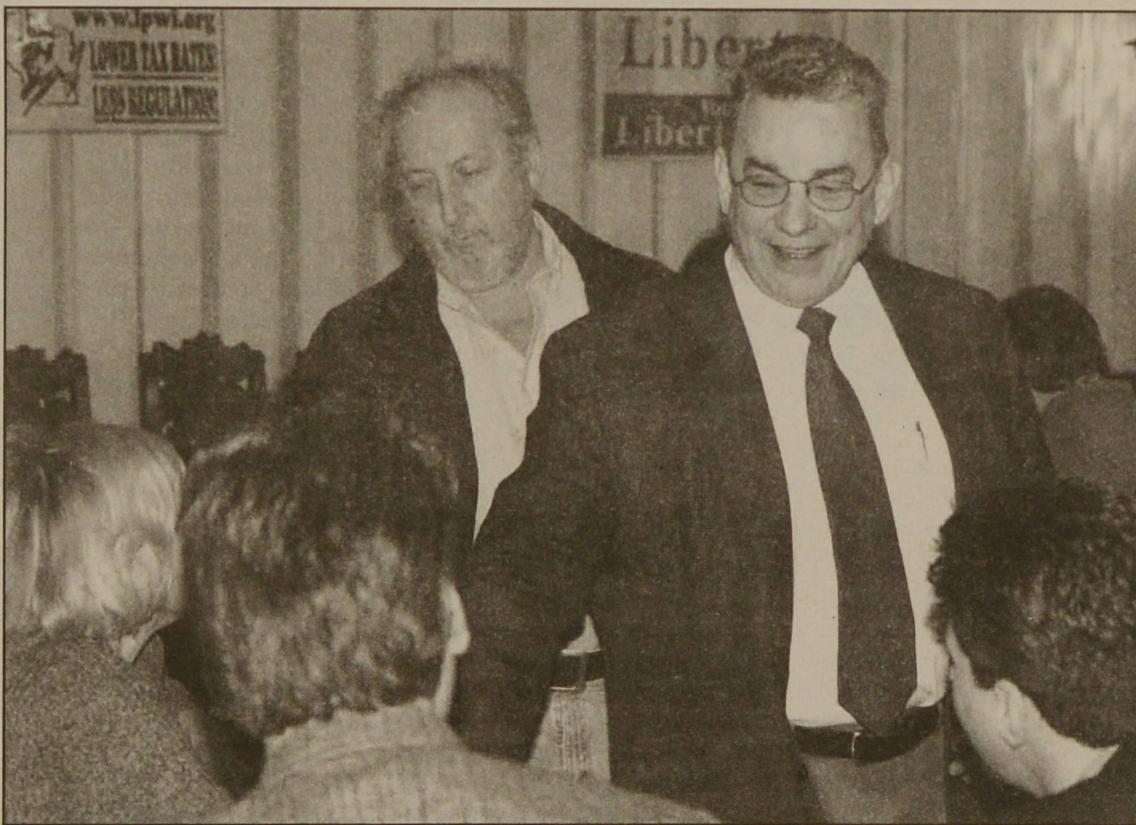
■ NEW MEXICO

Libertarians fight breathalyzers in cars

Libertarians are lobbying against House Bill 126, which would require drivers to blow into breathalyzers before starting their cars.

The state House approved the bill on Feb. 17, and the LP hopes to forestall Senate approval. The Senate adjourned on Feb. 19 without addressing the bill.

"This nonsense about testing ev-



Ed Thompson works the crowd during LP meeting

■ Ed Thompson greets members of the Milwaukee Metro Libertarian Party on March 3, 2004. Thompson "delivered a stirring and inspirational speech" to the group of about 75, said filmmaker Dave Hendrickson, who is making a movie about Thompson's run for governor of Wisconsin in 2002 on the LP ticket. "My cameraman and I were there to record the speech for our documentary, to show that although Thompson didn't win his bid for governor, he is still actively spreading the word of freedom and individual rights," he added.

Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair

Visit: www.LP.org
 Click on: Organization
 Click on: State Parties
 Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: www.LP.org
 Click on: Organization
 Click on: National Committee
 Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership

Visit: www.LP.org
 See: Special Features (left side)
 Click on: Renew

everyone for DWI" has been stalled for now, state LP chair Richard Obergfell said, but Gov. Bill Richardson will probably call a special session to address tax issues and the question of ignition interlocks could come up then.

The proposed law would require breathalyzer devices to be installed in all new cars by Jan. 1, 2008, and in all used cars in the state by Jan. 1, 2009. Drivers would have to use their breathalyzers to verify they haven't been drinking.

Ignition interlock devices can be court-ordered in some states for people who are convicted of driving under the influence of alcohol. But no state currently treats all drivers as if they have been convicted of DWI, which is what the New Mexico bill proposes, Obergfell said: It would slam the state's innocent with the punishment now reserved for lawbreakers.

Proponents say the bill would stop drunk driving in the state, and that the cost of the devices — approximately \$1,000 to \$1,500 — could be deducted from vehicle excise taxes.

If that happens, the politicians would certainly come back with new tax increases to make up for the lost revenue, Obergfell said, noting that this could lead to hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes.

■ OREGON

Get government out of marriage

Oregon Libertarians have proposed an innovative solution to the gay marriage controversy: Get bureaucrats and politicians out of the marriage business altogether by replacing government-issued marriage licenses with civil unions.

Delegates across the state approved a resolution by a 31-2 vote, calling for civil unions for all couples, instead of government-recognized marriages.

"Our approach lets churches control their marriage sacraments while ensuring that government doesn't sanction gay marriages," state LP chairman Adam Mayer said.

"On the other hand, our approach puts all couples on an equal footing before the law and allows gay couples to be married by more liberal churches and other organizations," Mayer added.

The Oregon LP's resolution came as some officials in Portland, Ore., San Francisco, and other parts of the country have started to perform weddings of same-sex couples.

Multnomah County, Ore., authorities ruled recently that the

state constitution requires allowing homosexual couples to marry. State Attorney General Hardy Myers is expected to give an opinion on this decision in the next week or so, while religious groups are lobbying for a constitutional amendment to specifically ban such marriages.

■ WEST VIRGINIA

Saying no to required child vaccinations

West Virginia Libertarians are among those protesting changes to the state's mandatory vaccination law, which would eliminate parental

choice in whether or not children are vaccinated against chickenpox, measles and other diseases.

West Virginia and Mississippi are the only two states that do not allow parents to exempt their children from mandatory vaccinations for religious or philosophical reasons, said Helen Tucker, chair of the Libertarian Party of West Virginia.

On Feb. 23, Tucker joined other protesters at rallies at the Marion County Courthouse in Fairmont and in Charleston, the state capital, to say that bureaucrats shouldn't mandate a medical procedure that can result in injury or death.

"If passed, this bill will turn all West Virginian parents who choose not to vaccinate for religious reasons into criminals, or force them to move to another state," said Tucker, who is a co-founder of West Virginians for Vaccination Exemption.

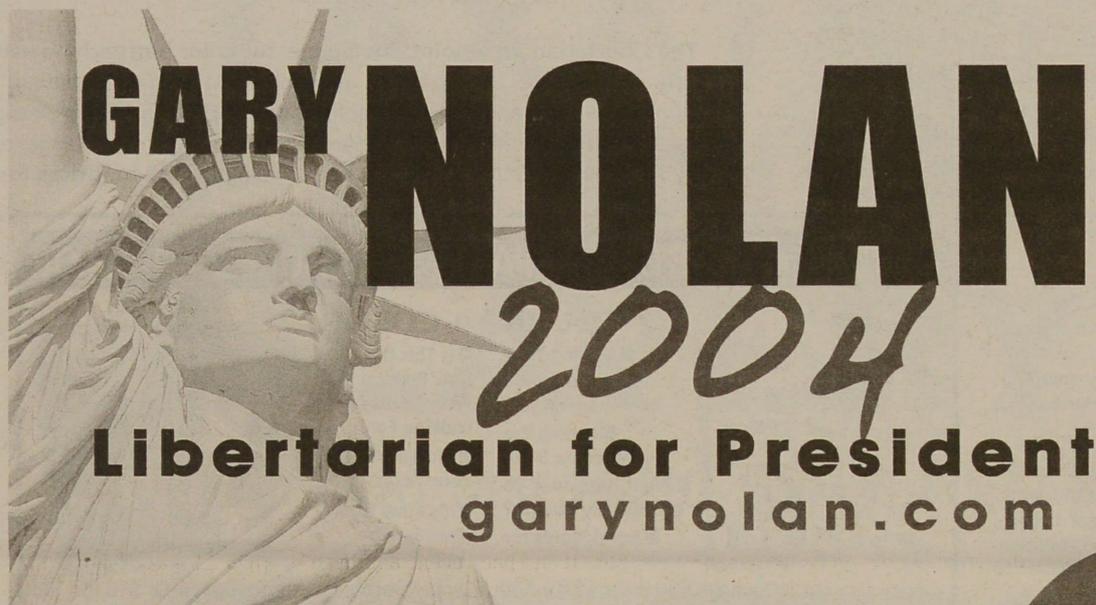
All 50 states currently require all children to be vaccinated against various diseases before they can go to school, but 48 states allow parents to not get their children vaccinated if they sign an exemption, she said.

The proposed law — Senate Bill 439 — would also apply to home-schooled children.

State law currently allows doctors to write exemptions for children, but the proposed law would allow exemptions in very limited circumstances.

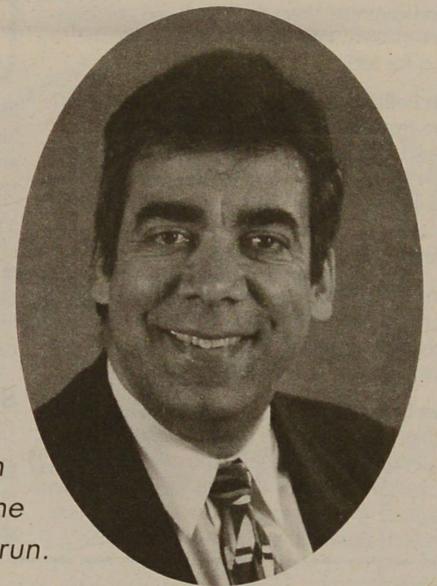
"They don't include any exemption if a sibling or other relative had a bad reaction to the vaccination; they don't take any allergies into account," Tucker said.

"For example, I suffered a horrible reaction to vaccination. I was disabled for almost 10 years with chronic fatigue syndrome following a flu shot, and I do not want my daughter to have to go through the same thing."



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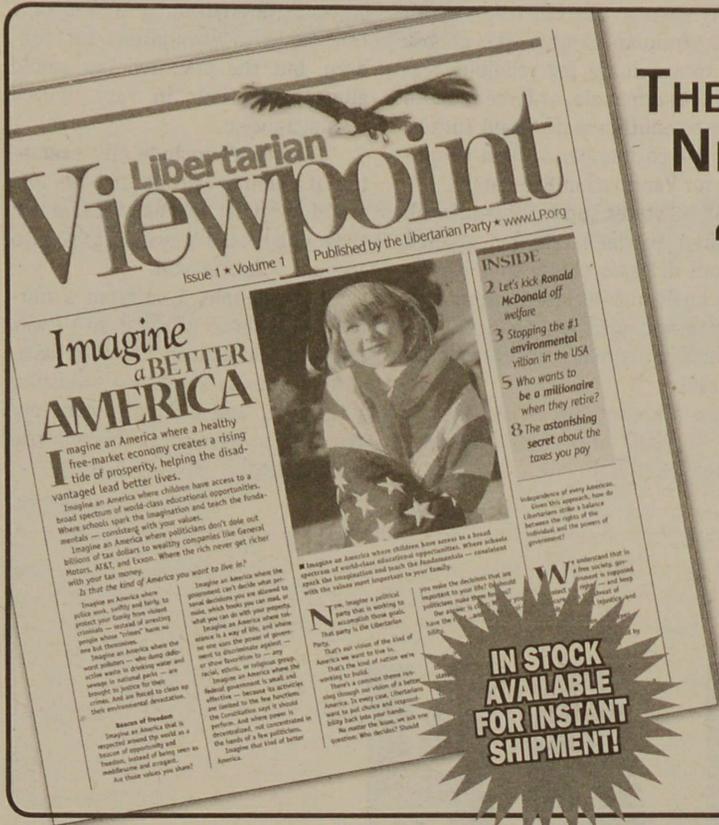
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■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each, or 5 for \$35.

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■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; 800-ELECT-US phone number below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-ELECT-US** (Blue & white.)

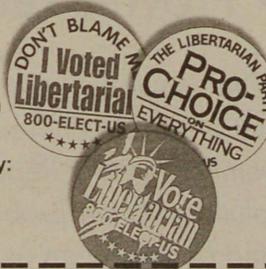
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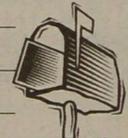
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Emissions tests are a waste of time, say Texas Libertarians

Plan targets newer cars instead of older, dirtier cars

Libertarians in central Texas are fighting a "clean air plan" they say would not work: It targets newer cars that don't pollute nearly as much as vehicles that are exempt, and it would cost \$32 million per year to implement.

And to cap off the objections, the plan isn't even necessary anymore, says Vince May, a Travis County LP activist who is spearheading the fight against the plan.

A five-county region was targeted in 1999 by the federal Environmental Protection Agency because they were violating EPA air quality standards, May said. Bastrop, Caldwell, Hays, Travis and Williamson counties signed a compact with the EPA, saying they would come up with a plan to cut ozone pollution enough to be in compliance with the federal Clean Air Act limits by 2007.

"By 2003, without having vehicle emissions testing, we had already met EPA standards; we are not required to do anything more," May said. "Our auto emissions have been declining dramatically because dealers in Austin are selling ultra clean, low emission vehicles, and the older, dirtier cars are being retired and sent to the junkyard."

Under the plan, the dirtiest vehicles — cars more than 24 years old and all diesel vehicles — would not be tested.

"So they're going to test only the newest, cleanest, most efficient light trucks and cars," May said. "That shows the idiocy of the system we're up against."

"The Travis County Libertarian Party believes that the cost of cleaning the air should be borne by those who do the polluting, not the general public," TCLP member Steve Ravet testified recently before the San Marcos City Council in Hays County, noting that the dirtiest 10 percent of vehicles — most of which would not be tested — produce 50 percent of the pollution.

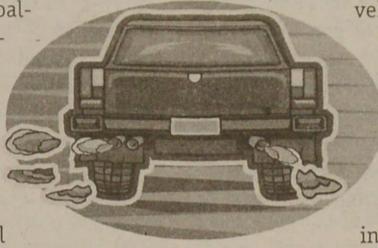
Politicians in Travis and Williamson counties are now the only ones pushing for emissions testing.

Bastrop and Caldwell counties are primarily rural and don't have to take part in the vehicle inspection and maintenance part of the program, and the San Marcos City Council voted recently — following heavy Libertarian lobbying — to reject such testing there, blocking emissions testing throughout Hays County.

It would be much more effective to control emissions from Austin's

energy plant, which is "an extremely dirty, coal-burning, municipal-owned electric plant," May said.

Even though the counties are currently in compliance with federal regulations, local



leaders are "pushing for vehicle emissions testing for one reason: There is a fear in certain vested interests here that if the EPA comes in and writes the

rules, they'll get burned," May said.

"There is one power plant in Austin, and it puts out more pollution than all cars in the entire five-county region. They plan to clean it up, but on their own schedule, sometime in the future. For now, they want all vehicle owners to take the blame and have to pay for the solution."

Costs to implement the testing program include inspection fees and repairs to the 12 percent of vehicles expected to fail in the first year. Inspection currently costs \$12.50 per year; if the emissions testing is approved, that will increase by \$16 to \$20 per vehicle.

"Drivers of clean cars shouldn't See **CAR** Page 21

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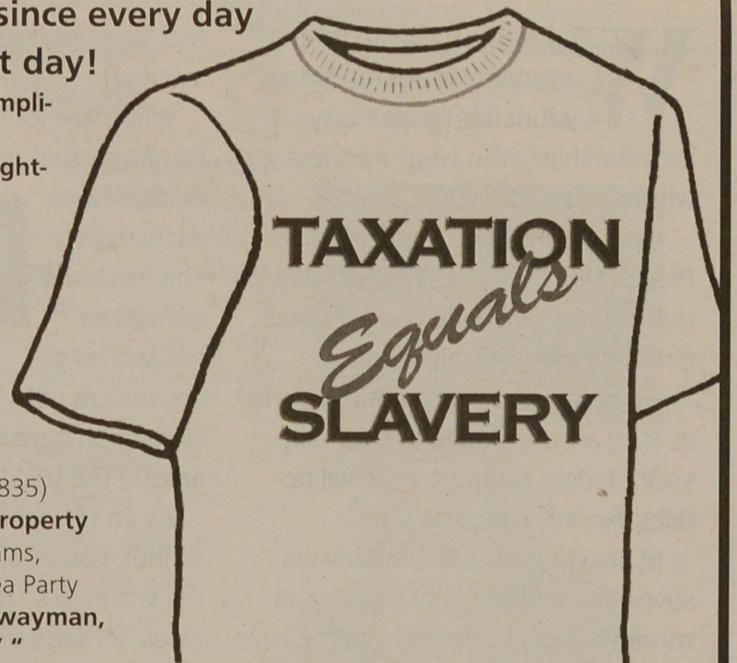
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- "The fact is that government, like a highwayman, says to a man: 'Your money or your life.'"
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Pennsylvania LP protesting \$800 million bond issue

Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell's 2005 budget proposal includes borrowing \$800 million through a bond issue, a move Pennsylvania Libertarians say would jeopardize the state's future liberty.

"Any bond issue would needlessly expand the size and scope of our state government and mortgage our

children's future," said Tim Crowley, Western Vice Chair of the Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania.

The LP's state convention in Harrisburg included a Freedom Rally on March 20, with Libertarians going to the Capitol building "to underscore the Libertarian movement towards limited government and open market solutions," Crowley said.

"If passed, this bond issue would finance a \$200 million subsidy of select individuals in Pennsylvania under the guise of preserving open space and farmland," said Russ Diamond, the LP candidate for the state House, 101st District.

"Current Department of Agriculture farmland preservation programs are little more than a method for

farmers to blackmail local officials who may be concerned with urban sprawl," he said, noting that farmers would be better served if they were released "from price controls and other government mandates that prevent them from trading in a truly free market."

Several privately funded organizations — such as the Nature

Conservancy — offer similar preservation objectives without governmental bullying of taxpayers. The proposed bond would be repaid by increasing trash disposal fees and other fees across the state.

The governor's proposal earmarks \$170 million of the bond money for "revitalizing communities," which would be yet another misuse of taxpayer funds, the LP says.

"Libertarians believe revitalization is best funded at the local level by those with a true incentive to make their hometowns a better place to work, live and recreate," stated Ray Ondrusek, the LP's state House candidate for the 102nd district.

"Under any statewide program this \$170 million will become 'walking around money' for career politicians to reward cronies and punish opponents. Borrowing against the earning power of future generations to lavish today's campaign contributors with special favors is a classic scheme of tax and spend bureaucrats."

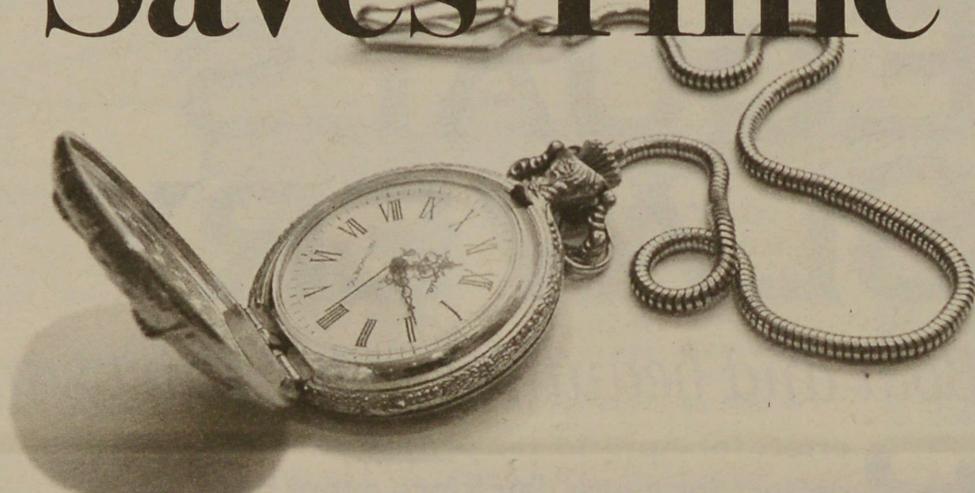
Gov. Rendell is also proposing that up to \$2 billion in state bonds and loans be provided for economic development, including boosting the state's tourism industry.

Even some incumbent politicians are questioning the immense borrowing and spending programs Rendell has proposed.

The governor claims the budget package will inject \$2 billion into the state's economy, but it would do so by taking the money away from taxpayers — the continuing fatal flaw in "tax and spend" or "borrow and spend" government programs.

Pennsylvania's annual budget currently includes debt service of more than \$750 million, and payments on the proposed \$2 billion "economic stimulus" bond would add an estimated \$91 million to that debt service in the 2005-06 fiscal year.

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CORRECTIONS

■ February 2004 issue: In an article about the upcoming 2004 LP National Convention, Ed Thompson was incorrectly described as the "2002 Minnesota LP gubernatorial candidate." In fact, Thompson was a candidate for governor in Wisconsin.

■ February 2004 issue: In an Affiliate News item from Utah, LP member Aaron Turpen was credited with winning the right to select a sermon topic at a Unitarian Universalist society. The minister talked about libertarianism. However, Turpen neither won the contest nor requested the topic: That distinction should have gone to Robin Petty, "who is not an LP member, but is considered a libertarian by most who know him," Turpen said.

Libertarians save California county \$98 million in school taxes

Public access TV show proves crucial in anti-tax fight

There was some good news in California in March for Libertarians opposed to raising taxes to fund further government waste, but it was obscured by news coverage of two bonds that were approved—totalling \$27.3 billion—to refinance the state's debt and pay for state-wide school construction.

In Santa Maria—a city of about 85,000 in Santa Barbara County, midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco—voters rejected a proposed bond measure that would have cost them \$98 million for school construction. Known as Measure V, it required 55 percent approval to pass; it got 50.26 percent of the vote.

The county Libertarian Party is claiming responsibility for the defeat of this added school tax, and school administrators and teachers are more than willing to let them take the blame, said county LP chair B.J. Wagener.

Wagener has had a public access television show for about three-and-a-half years, and he used his platform to remind voters in Santa Maria of another time the local school district got a bond approved with a promise to build a school.

"I got a lot of hate e-mail from school teachers and administrators, and from former school teachers and administrators," Wagener acknowledged. "I've had really controversial people on my show, but this show hit the teachers right where they live."

Public school officials and teachers were hoping the voters would have forgotten about the bond money they've misused in the past, said county LP secretary Robert Bakhaus.

"They were supposed to build a new junior high school about two decades ago, and they never have gotten around to it," Wagener said. "They got the bond passed, then spent about \$2 million to renovate a pre-existing building into a glorious Taj Mahal of an administrative building. They didn't have money left for the junior high school they had promised."

"People forget what these people do with the money they get from taxes," Wagener said. "Some [taxpayers] contacted us, saying they were happy I reminded them of how the school district wasted the money the last time."

On his show, Wagener interviewed the author of the ballot argument against the bond measure, while also showing a video tour "of

the Taj Mahal administrative building, showing how previous bond monies had been wasted, lavished on creature comfort for public school administrators," Bakhaus said.

Eventually, the LP and other anti-tax groups hope to "force them to stop building government schools and start allowing independent charter schools instead," Wagener said. "They could right now,

but they won't let that happen."

It's been proven that charter schools operate on 70 percent of what it costs a public system school to function—maybe even less—and such schools are more successful than public schools, he said.

Wagener's public access TV show is crucial to the Santa Barbara County LP's brand of activism, Bakhaus said, noting that the group uses the

show instead of "campaign debate sound bites."

"We haven't lost any of our campaigns since we stopped worrying about candidates and started worrying about issues."

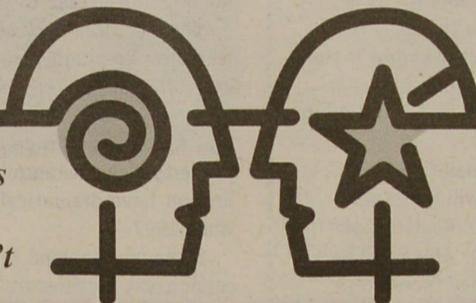
"If you're the only Libertarian in your community, go on public access television and you will build your own libertarian cadre," Wagener added.

"If you're the only one, you won't be for long. People see me on TV regularly, and it's helping the Libertarian Party grow."

"You just have to be one determined person, and have a soap box to speak from. We are exposing corruption. People know it's out there, but I show it to them on video. When you show the truth, people will notice."

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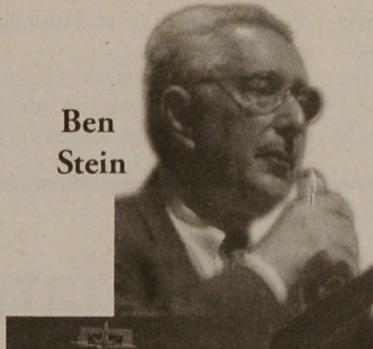
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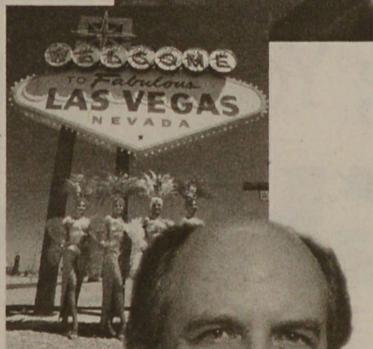
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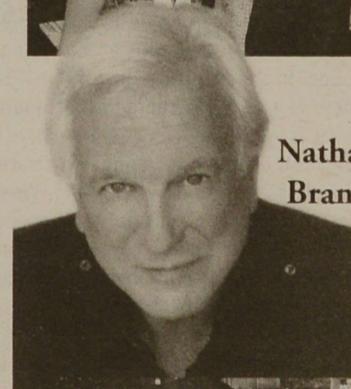
- Gordon Tullock, George Mason Univ.
- Robert Poole, Jr., Reason Foundation
- Rep. Ron Paul, Texas Congressman
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- Tom DiLorenzo, Loyola College
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Ben Stein



Charles Murray



Nathaniel Branden



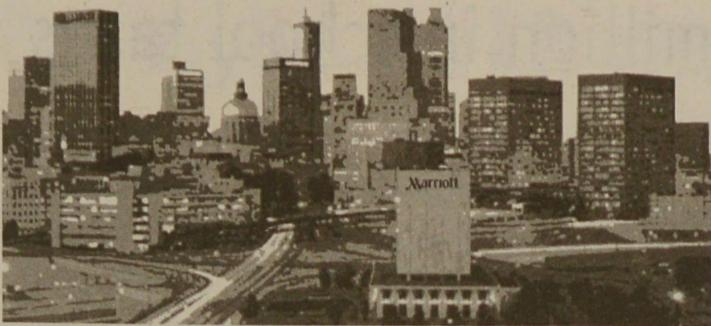
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CONVENTION 2004 REPORT

Only Eight Weeks To Go!

Hopefully you registered for the convention before the Early Bird prices expired. If you get this before March 31, you still have time to do it through the new convention Web site at www.LPConvention.org. The prices are slightly higher starting on April 1.

This new site should answer most, if not all, of your convention questions. But someone always manages to come up with something I hadn't thought of, so feel free to contact me directly if something is not clear. Having attended so many conventions, both state and national, I understand the process pretty well, but I may take something for granted as being "common knowledge."

More information will be added as it becomes available (or as it comes to mind), and I welcome suggestions for tidbits that may be helpful for others. I can add more to the FAQ page. Let me know if you want to be the "go-to" person to network with others on a particular issue, or for any reason you'd like; I can put your name and contact info on the "Networking" page of the Web site.

One question I got was whether tickets would be mailed out to people who have pre-registered. No, they won't. You will go to our registration desk (we'll be using the Marriott's Imperial Registration area — you can see a floor plan of it on the Web site), which will be open starting at noon on May 27 and at 7 a.m. each day thereafter throughout the convention.

You will get a tote bag with a convention booklet, your name badge and everything you need to get you into the events you've paid for. The delegate credentialing will be set up there, too.

It looks like we're going to have a very well-attended convention. We're very much on-track compared with past conventions on pre-registrations. And the anecdotal feedback I've gotten is very positive. We're getting a high level of interest from various media — even the likes of ABC. People are very excited about this convention. And why not? There's gonna be lots of terrific speakers and all sorts of great things going on. We still seem to have a real "horse-race" among the leading presidential candidates, so the delegates will have their work cut out for them in making some very critical decisions for 2004.

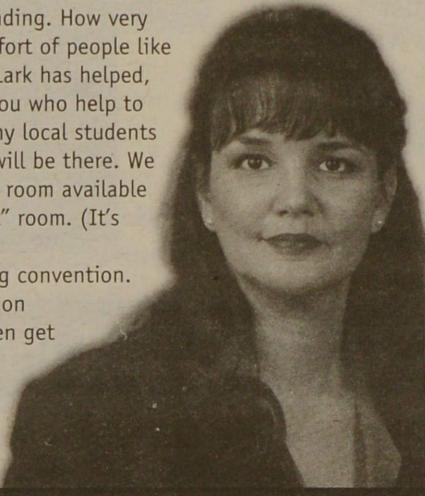
One thing we're really proud to offer is the Thursday campaign workshop, which we are calling the "Libertarian Victory School" — the name used for a similar function in 2002. The difference this time is that the instructors are real pros at managing winning campaigns. They don't just deal in theory. They know what it takes to win elections!

Yes, there is a separate charge for attending this all-day event. But the price is very small considering you're getting the professional training of these experienced campaign strategists, with some invaluable hands-on interactive training. What would it cost you to hire someone comparable as a consultant? Probably about the same, but you might only get an hour or two of their time. And lunch is included! What a deal! Register for the Libertarian Victory School through the convention Web site and answer the questionnaire to help the instructors tailor the school for you!

There seems to be a greater-than-usual interest from students and younger Libertarians in attending. How very cool is that?! I'm sure the effort of people like Trevor Southerland and Jim Lark has helped, not to mention so many of you who help to get campuses organized. Many local students from Georgia Tech and UGA will be there. We are going to make a meeting room available to the "kids" for a "hang-out" room. (It's "for the children," after all.)

This will be a very exciting convention. Be a part of it. You could be on national TV — you might even get interviewed. See you there!

Nancy Neale
convention@hq.LP.org



Vermont town wants to secede

Citing high taxes, residents vote to join New Hampshire

Libertarian activists in Vermont and New Hampshire cheered the decision made by residents of Killington, a Vermont town of about 1,000, who voted March 2 to secede from the state and join New Hampshire.

Contributing to the Killington argument and supporting the decision were New Hampshire state Libertarian Party chair John Babiarz, representatives of the Vermont LP, and several activists in the Free State Project — which recently began trying to convince 20,000 freedom-minded people to move to New Hampshire as a first step in creating a more libertarian state government there.

But residents of Killington, which is about 25 miles from the state line, don't want to move to New Hampshire; they want New Hampshire to come to them.

The decision to secede came in response to high property taxes Vermont has foisted on Killington. Under the state's system of financing education, property taxes in property-rich communities like Killington have dramatically increased since 1997.

Some who lobbied in favor of secession say businesses and private property owners in the ski resort town send up to \$20 million a year to Montpelier — the state capital — in sales, property and other taxes, with the state returning only about \$850,000 in education and other municipal services.

By contrast, New Hampshire has no income tax or sales tax, making it particularly attractive to the over-taxed Vermonters.

While the secessionist residents

of Killington aren't necessarily Libertarians, they are certainly libertarian in some ways, Babiarz said.

"These are the regular people in the town," he said. "They're not hardcore libertarian activists. But they obviously believe in smaller government and this is a great chance to encourage people who believe — as we do — that smaller government is better."

"There is a legislator in New Hampshire who is going to sponsor their proposal to become part of this state. In New Hampshire, we can appreciate secession. It's part of the New Hampshire spirit."

Case in point: In 1774, before the revolts against the British in Lexington and Concord which are credited with beginning the Revolutionary War, "citizens in Exeter, New Hampshire, pointed a cannon at the British governor and sent him packing," Babiarz said.

Killington was originally chartered in New Hampshire in 1761. In 1777, Vermont — including Killington — declared its independence from New York and New Hampshire, states that both had claims to the territory.

Secession and fighting against unreasonable taxes are a throwback to those colonial times, said some at the town meeting.

At a cost of \$20,000, the town brought in a consultant last fall to study the situation and "found that by being in New Hampshire they would save a great deal of money, to the tune of about \$10 million a year," Babiarz said.

"I spoke to one gentleman who said property taxes on his home have gone up from \$2,200 six years

ago to \$11,000. Their taxes are way, way too high and they don't think they're getting much back for it."

"The state is treating us like a cash-cow," said town manager David Lewis.

Killington challenged parts of the tax law in state Superior Court and in 2002 a judge ruled in favor of the town. But the state Supreme Court overturned the ruling in October, 2003, forcing residents to take what they feel is the only reasonable next step.

"That was the last nail in the coffin," Lewis said, noting that secession makes economic good sense, and that research has shown the move is perfectly legal.

Legal or not, the town's residents don't get to make the final decision. New Hampshire will first be approached to see if that state will accept Killington. Then the Vermont legislature and governor would have to approve the move. Town leaders acknowledged that Vermont won't set them free without a fight.

Babiarz said he doesn't expect any difficulty getting the New Hampshire legislature to approve the move: "There's really nothing negative about the idea."

The problem, he said, "is going to be in Vermont. I don't know if Killington is going to be able to convince Vermont's legislators and governor to let them go. But the town selectmen have vowed to go to Congress, which is the final arbitrator of property disputes like this."

"We're hoping to enlist three or four other towns that would make a nice corridor to the New Hampshire border," said head selectman Walter Findeisen. "This is for real."

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MAY 27-31, 2004

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Former LP Presidential Candidate Harry Browne Named 2004 Banquet Master of Ceremonies

Even more guest speakers confirmed!



Harry Browne

Harry Browne needs no introduction to Libertarians. He was our presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000 and is responsible for bringing many people to the LP through his eloquent communication skills. His pure approach to smaller government was praised in dozens of newspaper editorials and political columns and he has appeared on over a thousand radio and television programs, including the *Today Show*, *Wall Street Week* and *The Larry King Show*. His eleven books have sold over two million copies.

Before entering politics he was a successful investment advisor for decades. His first book *How You Can Profit from the Coming Devaluation* (1970) made the *N.Y. Times Bestseller List*. His book *You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis* (1974) remained on the *N.Y.T. Bestseller List* for 39 weeks and reached #1. His most recent book is *Fail-Safe Investing* (1999).

In 1973 his first "libertarian" book *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World: A Handbook for Personal Liberty* was published. It's a "self-help book that shows individuals how to take responsibility for their own lives." It was re-published in hardcover in 1997.

His 1995 book *Why Government Doesn't Work* spoke to hundreds of thousands of Americans who felt frustrated by big government. *The Great Libertarian Offer* was published in June 2000. These two books along with *How I Found Freedom* were used extensively during his presidential campaigns.

He was co-founder and is

currently Director of Public Policy for the American Liberty Foundation and is a consultant to the Permanent Portfolio family of mutual funds. He has also been conducting "The Art of Libertarian Persuasion" seminars, sponsored by the Advocates for Self-Government, with Michael Cloud.

You can read some of his many articles on a myriad of subjects on his website harrybrowne.org and also find out about his weekly radio show, which airs on over 30 stations across the country and can also be heard on the internet.

This Renaissance man (and college drop-out) also enjoys classical music and opera, good food and wine, and sports. He has a grown daughter and has been married to his wife Pamela for 19 years. He was born in New York City, grew up in Los Angeles and currently resides in Franklin, Tennessee.

Joseph Bast

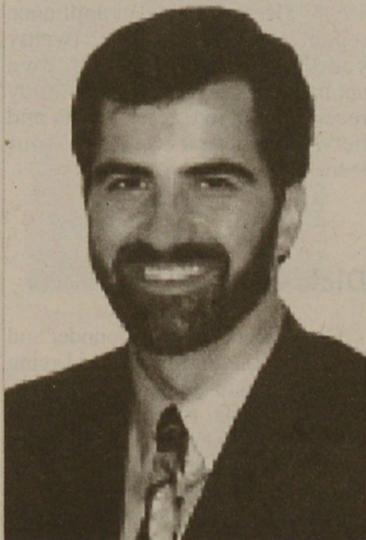
Joseph Bast is President and CEO of The Heartland Institute, a national, independent, non-partisan, nonprofit research center headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

Heartland's mission is to "help build social movements in support of ideas that empower people, including parental choice in education, choice and personal responsibility in health care, market-based approaches to environmental protection, privatization of public services, and deregulation in areas where property rights and markets do a better job than government bureaucracies."

From the time of its founding, Mr. Bast oversaw Heartland's growth from an annual budget of \$20,000 in 1984 (and himself as the only employee) to a budget of \$2.2 million in 2004 and a staff of fourteen.

Joe Bast is the coauthor of eight books and numerous policy papers. He is the publisher of four monthly newsletters: *School Reform News*, *Environment & Climate News*, *Health Care News*, and *Budget & Tax News*. All four publications are delivered to every state and federal legislator in the country, as well as some 2,000 journalists and thousands of grassroots activists and public policy research organizations.

He is also publisher and editor of *IT Update*, a monthly newsletter on information technology public policy issues, which is sent to approximately 3,000 elected



Joe Bast

officials and opinion leaders.

Joe was the primary author of *Eco-Sanity: A Common Sense Guide to Environmentalism* in 1995, a book that combines sound science and libertarian principles to address all the major environmental issues of the day; it got excellent reviews and sold nearly 20,000 copies. (He also was editor for a time of the Sierra Club's Illinois newsletter.)

His latest book, *Education and Capitalism*, published in 2003 by the Hoover Institution, covers the history of private education and makes a strong pitch for returning to a market-based system.

Originally from a small town in Wisconsin, where Joe was a debate champion in high school, he went on to study economics at the University of Chicago and has made the Chicago area his home, where he lives with his wife of 23 years, Diane Carol Bast, who is also a staffer at Heartland. Joe is the recipient of numerous awards and was elected a member of the Philadelphia Society in 2001. Check out www.heartland.org and go to the "About Heartland" tab to read more about Heartland and Joe Bast.

Andy LeCureaux

Andy LeCureaux is one of the success stories of the "Troika." He was elected to the Hazel Park (pop. 19,000 in the Detroit-metro area) city council in 2001 and reelected in 2003; he received the most votes in 2003 and was named mayor pro-tem.

During his tenure he has helped reduce his city's general fund budget from \$12.4 million for fiscal year 2001-2002 to \$10.8 million for 2003-2004. After discovering gross

mismangement of funds (and possible kickbacks to city officials) during his first term, he moved for the firing of the city manager. He survived a recall threat, but got his way and even the mayor subsequently resigned.

Andy also serves as the Hazel Park representative on the board of trustees for the Southeastern Oakland County Resource Recovery Authority, which represents 12 municipalities (mostly represented by city managers or attorneys). SOCRRA oversees and coordinates waste management in its member cities. City councilman Martin Howrylak (another libertarian) also serves on the board representing Troy.

While on the SOCRRA board Andy says, "We have lowered rates 20%, stopped the planned construction of a golf course, and returned over \$2 million to the member cities from the construction money. I was elected Secretary and serve on two standing committees." He says he has the support of the current chair to be his successor.

One secret to his election success is prior involvement in his community. He attended city council meetings, spoke on various issues and was appointed to the



Andy LeCureaux

youth assistance committee. He has been active in local charitable and volunteer organizations. He walked door-to-door during his campaigns and listened to the voters' concerns.

Both times he received the endorsement of the Hazel Park firefighters union.

See **SPEAKERS** Page 2

Reprieve for Procrastinators!

Early Bird Prices Extended 10 Days

by Nancy Neale

CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

We sort of made a last-minute "executive decision" to extend the Early-Bird package prices through April 10th. (The submission deadline for my column came before the deadline for this insert, so my column says the deadline is March 31st, but it's now April 10th.) This means that your registration order needs to be faxed, mailed (postmarked) or processed on-line by Saturday, April 10th to get the lower prices.

The order form this month has the prices for "by" and "after" April 10th and we are now offering individual meal events. (The featured speakers' names are now on the schedule.) *It really helps us a lot for you to register early so we can get a more accurate idea of our meal counts!*

And don't forget to buy your tickets for the "Red, Rock & Blues" Concert.

And be sure to register on-line for the "Libertarian Victory School" for invaluable training on getting elected to office!

You can read here about a few more great speakers we've added, and there will be even more than this before we're through! Check the website for updates.

So many interesting speakers...So much valuable information...A really exciting presidential race...So many important decisions to be made...So much going on...So much fun.

You know you want to be there! Don't put it off any longer. Register NOW. See you in Atlanta!

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RED, ROCK & BLUES

That's what we've named the Friday Night Concert and you don't want to miss it! Of course you know about the headliner, multi-Grammy-Award-winning blues/rock singer/guitarist (and Libertarian) **Jimmie Vaughan** and the very excellent kick-[you know what] rock-n-roll band **Poker Face**. Added to the line-up is the very talented singer-songwriter-guitarist **Dan Litwin**, who is also an LP Activist in California.



Jimmie Vaughan

Dan's been playing guitar since 1970, influenced by the classic rock guitarists. He's been a Libertarian activist since he first understood the concept that you should be free to do "anything that's peaceful." He has had many of his (very well-written) letters-to-the-editor published in *USA Today* and the *L.A. Times*, and over forty in his local *San Diego Union-Tribune* over the past decade.



Dan Litwin

Many of Dan's lyrics reflect this quote from him: "The purpose of a reasonable, moderate government is simply to keep you free, so you can enjoy the peace." You can listen to some of the songs from his CD on his website: www.PeacemakersRock.com



Poker Face

SPEAKERS From Page 2

Andy says he's always voted Libertarian or independent and joined the LP in 1998. He was a candidate for U.S. Congress in 2000 and was on the LPOC executive board until his city council win in 2001.

He has lived in Hazel Park since 1994. He worked as an appliance repair technician for over twenty years and now runs his own appliance installing business. Andy recently married Susie Jweda and between them they have four teenage children.

Dick Cheatham

Dick Cheatham is co-founder and director of the Virginia-based Living History Associates, Ltd., which brings key (but often overlooked) historical figures "to life" in order to educate and inspire Americans. In addition to thousands of presentations to all sorts of groups over the past fourteen years, he has appeared on the BBC, The Learning Channel, and has been interviewed on *Entertainment Tonight* and the *Voice of America*. He has recently appeared in several PBS series and is listed in *Who's Who in Professional Speaking*.

A native of Richmond, Dick is a graduate of VMI with a Bachelor's degree in History and Liberal Arts. A newspaper columnist and a member of the National Speakers Association, Dick has been a school teacher, a museum educator and a television reporter, having covered the Virginia State Capitol for six years. He has a particular interest in the fundamental and fascinating concepts which guided the formation of our Nation—concepts which remain relevant today.

Recently, Dick has been presenting himself as John Rolfe, husband of Pocahontas and "savior"

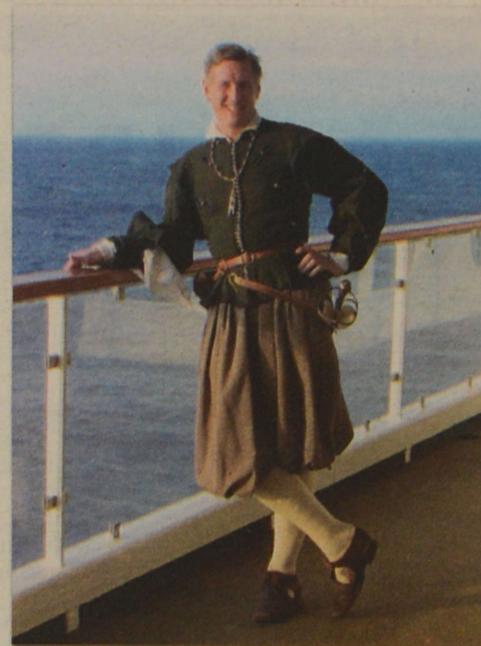
of the English Colony which became the USA. (Dick is a fourteenth-generation direct descendant of Rolfe.) He also portrays Richard Henry Lee, the patriot for liberty whose call for independence led the way for Jefferson's written document that soon followed. President John Tyler and Captain Meriwether Lewis are also in his repertoire.

Besides being an excellent communicator of libertarian ideas (which he will be conducting "as himself") Dick will honor us with a couple of presentations as two of his alter-egos.

John Rolfe is best known as the husband of Pocahontas. Less known however is that he may have "saved America" because he literally saved the Virginia Colony.

After years of failed treasure-hunting for precious metals (which the Spanish had exploited in other parts of North America, but none were found in Virginia) and a socialist system (the "common storehouse" concept of shared ownership of land) which had been established in the Virginia Colony, Rolfe's entrepreneurialism saved the Colony when through experimentation he cultivated a particular variety of tobacco which prospered in the Virginia soil and climate. Rolfe took the Colony from desperation and near bankruptcy to prosperity.

Richard Henry Lee was among the first to propose a system of inter-colonial committees as a sort of "united front" against the British. This led to the formation of the First Continental Congress (with Virginia represented by Lee, Patrick Henry and George Washington) which first met on September 5, 1774 in Philadelphia. With the issue of independence stalled, shrewd



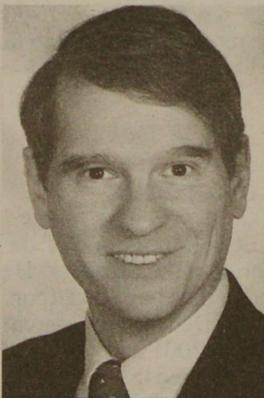
Dick Cheatham as John Rolfe

political action was needed to propel the dream of independence into reality. Now more determined Lee pushed for stronger action; on June 7, 1776 he addressed the Congress with the resolution that would forever change the course of history: "Resolved: that these united Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States, that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be totally dissolved."

A strong proponent of States' rights, Lee distrusted a strong federal government and worked against the ratification of the Constitution: "To say that a bad government must be established for fear of anarchy is really saying that we should kill ourselves for fear of dying." And although a Virginian, he had worked to stop importation of slaves into the American states.

Find out more about Dick and Living History Associates at www.LTHLtd.com.

Speakers Featured in Previous Editions



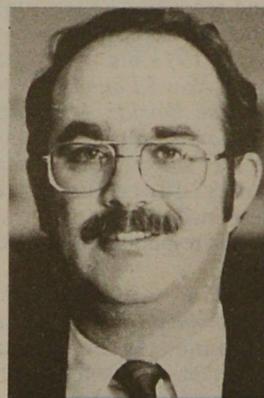
Ken Krawchuk



John Clifton



Mary Ruwart



David Nolan

For more information, please visit www.LPconvention.org

See **MORE SPEAKERS** Page 3

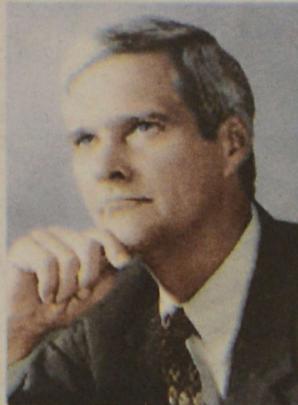
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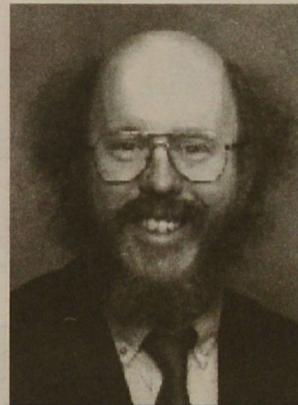
Barry Hess



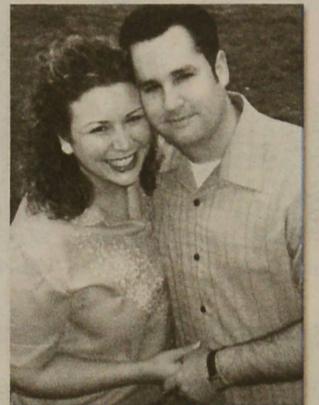
Fred Collins



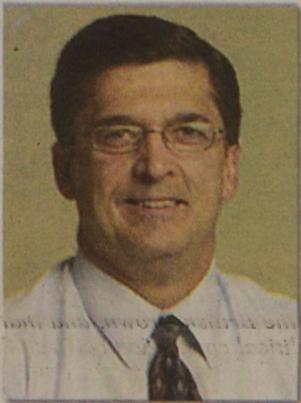
James P. Gray



James Bovard



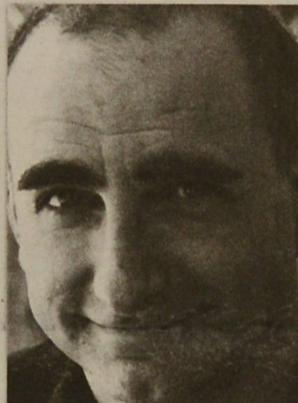
Kori & Chad Crow



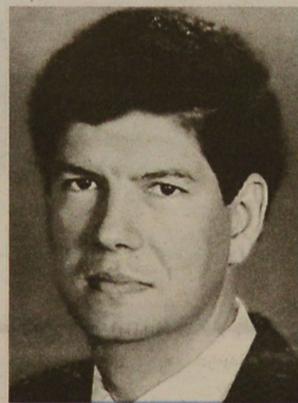
Richard Mack



Neal Boortz



Dean Cameron



James W. Lark



Carl Milsted

"Liberty Works" logo, newsletter design & layout by Upton Ethelbah (please visit www.UnityDesign.net)

See **FEATURED** Page 4

2004 LP CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	THURSDAY, MAY 27	FRIDAY, MAY 28	SATURDAY, MAY 29	SUNDAY, MAY 30	MONDAY, MAY 31	
7 AM		B-fast w/ Steven Baskerville	Breakfast with Neal Boortz	Breakfast with Joe Bast		
8 AM						
9 AM	Libertarian Victory School (9am-5pm)	Welcome/Keynote	Ron Paul	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	
10 AM		Business Sessions	Workshops (2 tracks)			Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"
11 AM		Committee Meetings (times TBD): Platform Bylaws Credentials LNC	Lunch with Carl Pope	Lunch with James Bovard	Lunch Break (TBD)	Lunch Break
12 PM			J.Gray/R. Mack	C. Twight	Lunch Break	
1 PM		Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	LNC Meeting	
2 PM		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"		
3 PM			Presidential Debate			
4 PM		Dinner Break	Dinner Break (Liberty Pledge Reception - invitation only)	Pre-Banquet Reception No-Host Bar + Live Music		
5 PM						
6 PM						
7 PM	"Welcome" Reception Munchies • No-Host Bar Live Music	Red, Rock & Blues concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan, Poker Face, Dan Litwin, & others!	Possible off-site event hosted by Georgia LP	Presidential Banquet Honoring LP Pres. & VP Nominees; Harry Browne, MC; plus David Nolan, Barbara Goushaw, Dean Cameron, and more! (dancing afterward)		
8 PM						
9 PM						
10 PM						
11 PM						

Note:
Schedule subject to change - see website for updates:
lpconvention.org

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FEATURED From Page 3



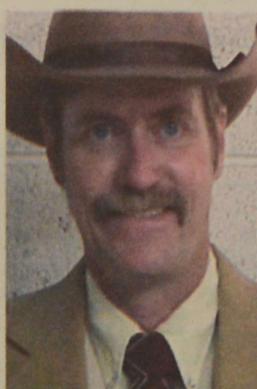
Mark Selzer



Barbara Goushaw



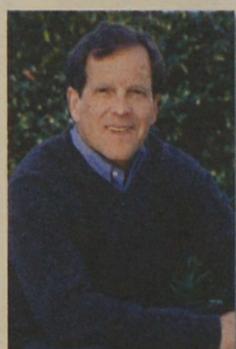
Sharon Harris



Willy Star Marshall



Charlotte Twight



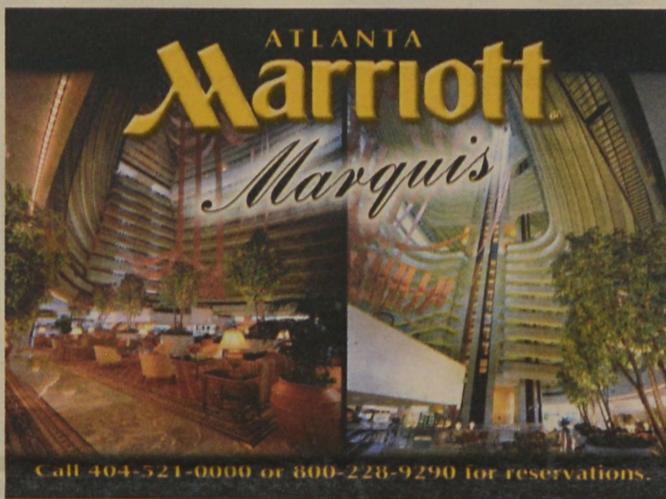
Carl Pope



Michael C. Colley



Ron Paul



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CONVENTION PACKAGE OPTIONS

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GOOD THRU APRIL 10, 2004

GOLD (\$329/\$369) This is the "all-inclusive" package that includes three (3) Breakfasts with top speakers, two (2) Lunches also with top speakers and the Sunday Night Banquet, with great speakers and entertainment and honoring our presidential nominee. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus access to all events in the Mail Hall and all Workshops.

SILVER (\$239/\$269) This mid-priced package includes three (3) Breakfasts with top speakers plus the Sunday Night Banquet, with great speakers and entertainers and honoring our presidential nominee. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus access to all events in the Mail Hall and all Workshops.

BRONZE (\$149/\$169) Start your mornings off right! This lower-priced package includes three (3) Breakfasts, which will feature some of our top speakers, access to the Main Hall and all Workshops, plus the Thursday "Welcome" Reception.

SPEAKER (\$89/\$99) This is the "economy" package, providing access to the Main Hall, also allows access to hear speakers/panels at all Workshops. It also includes the Thursday evening "Welcome" Reception.

BASIC (\$49/\$49) This is the "bare-bones" package for the truly committed delegate on a shoestring budget. It provides access to the Main Convention Hall, including many key speakers therein.

All Packages come with a Tote Bag, Name Badge and a complete Convention Program book, including the Convention Schedule, Business Agenda and current LP Platform and Bylaws.

RED, ROCK & BLUES (\$25) The Friday night Concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan is a separately ticketed event, and will also include other fantastic (libertarian) musicians.

FRIDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Steven Baskerville.

FRIDAY LUNCH (\$49) Featuring Carl Pope.

SATURDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Neal Boortz.

SATURDAY LUNCH (\$49) Featuring James Bovard.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST (\$29) Featuring Joe Bast.

PRESIDENTIAL BANQUET (\$99) Honoring LP Presidential & Vice-Presidential Nominees. Featuring MC Harry Browne, David Nolan, Barbara Goushaw, Dean Cameron, and more! (dancing afterward.)

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION REGISTRATION ORDER FORM



MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

www.LPconvention.org

Please use one form per person. If necessary, make a photocopy of this form.

1 FILL IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone(s): () _____

E-mail: _____

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

Name as you would like it to appear on badge: _____

2 PLEASE CHECK PACKAGE AND/OR EVENT (S) OF CHOICE

The *Early Bird* prices are good through **April 10, 2004.**

- Gold Package \$329/\$369
- Silver Package \$239/\$269
- Bronze Package \$149/\$169
- Speaker Package \$89/\$99
- Basic Package \$49/\$49
- Red, Rock & Blues Concert \$25
- Friday Breakfast \$29
- Saturday Breakfast \$29
- Sunday Breakfast \$29
- Friday Lunch \$49
- Saturday Lunch \$49
- Presidential Banquet \$99

Order Total: \$ _____

3 PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check enclosed payable to "Libertarian Party"
 Visa MC AmEx Discover

Account #: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Cardholder Name: _____
 (if different from above)

Signature: _____

Federal law requires us to use our best efforts to collect and report the name, mailing address, occupation and name of employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in an election cycle.

4 THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER!

MAIL TO
 Libertarian Party
 Attn: National Convention
 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
 Washington DC 20037

ONLINE
www.LPconvention.org

FAX
 Fax plain paper copy of form to (202) 333-0072.
 Credit card orders only.

Special needs: _____

QUESTIONS? E-mail convention@hq.LP.org or call 800-272-1776.

ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL RESERVATIONS:
 Call 404-521-0000 or 800-228-9290. Mention the "Libertarian Party Convention" to get the \$99 special room rate. Room availability guaranteed through May 5, 2004.

NOTE: this form is for purchasing admission to Convention events and activities; becoming a credentialed Delegate is a separate process; contact your state party. (4/04)

2004 LP Ballot Access: Where We Stand

Dear Libertarians,

Currently, the LP presidential ticket is qualified for the ballot in 27 states, more than any other minor party. While many state parties have achieved ballot status strictly through their own resources, the Libertarian National Committee has identified 11 remaining states that will likely need at least some help from the LNC. Of those, the LNC is helping to finance two petition drives right now and may have to help fund three others very soon. Additionally, two state parties, Ohio and Maryland, may need financial help to fight in court arbitrary and capricious decisions by state government bureaucrats who appear intent on keeping us off the ballot. So, here is our immediate action plan:

(1) South Dakota—We have started our petition drive in SD. We are doing a party petition (8,364 valid signatures) in SD. This will allow us to run US House and US Senate candidates this year, along with the presidential ticket. It will also qualify us for the ballot in 2006 for the U.S. House and governor. And, if we succeed in making the ballot, it will give impetus to a state bill that would change the requirement for ballot access retention from 2.5 percent of the last vote for governor to 2.5 percent of the last vote for any statewide office, which the LP has done in the past. The SDLP had 1,000 signatures and \$1,000 for this drive, so the national LP is funding the rest. We need \$18,000 to finish this drive — which has an April 1 deadline.

(2) Oklahoma—The Oklahoma Constitution says that elections in that state “shall be free and equal.” (I’m not kidding.) Oklahoma ballot laws have been a curse for the LP for over 30 years. Example: for any

office other than President, if you are an Independent, a \$500 filing fee will get you on the ballot — but not if you are a registered Libertarian. Then, you are barred from the ballot, unless the LP has gathered 51,781 valid signatures to qualify as a political party. If we do not qualify as a political party again in 2004, the state will delete the Libertarian Party designation of all such voters in Oklahoma, so we won’t then have the standing to sue.

Also, Ballot Access News publisher Richard Winger thinks there is a very good chance of winning this lawsuit, with the opportunity to permanently change Oklahoma’s ballot access laws for the better.

Winger has pledged \$17,000 to fund this lawsuit and petition drive — if the LP steps up to match him. We’ve spent \$3,500 on Oklahoma so far. We need \$13,500 right away to match Richard Winger’s generous pledge.

(3) West Virginia—The West Virginia LP has about 2,000 signatures and has raised \$15,000 on its own for the petition drive to place Simon McClure for governor and the LP presidential ticket on the ballot.

We have to gather 12,963 valid signatures by May 11 to get on the ballot for governor. That’s a mighty tall order for such a small state.

Getting a gubernatorial candidate on the ballot is very important, because the only way to retain ballot access in WV is to earn at least

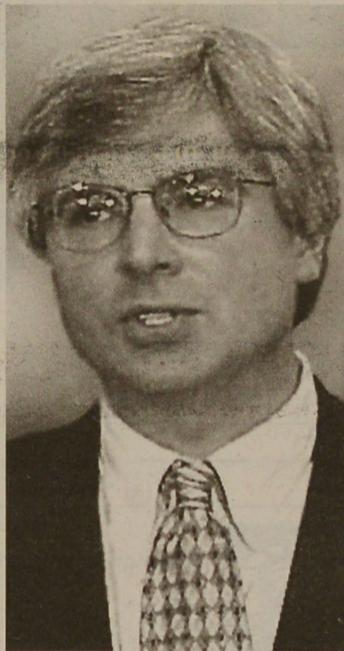
1 percent of the vote for governor. Our 1996 gubernatorial candidate, Wallace Johnson, did that. But, in a five-way race in 2000, we earned 0.86 percent of the vote for governor, coming up just short.

In 2004, it will almost certainly be a four-way race for governor, and it is very likely we will earn more than 1 percent again — if we get Simon McClure on the ballot. The national LP has to be ready to help if the West Virginia LP can’t finish this up themselves. We’ve got to have another \$15,000 on hand to do just that.

(4) Texas—The Texas LP has from March 10 to May 24 to gather 45,540 valid signatures to qualify the LP for the November ballot in that state. If we are successful, we will qualify our presidential ticket — and 31 U.S. House candidates—for the ballot in this nation’s second largest state.

The Texas LP has raised over \$43,000 for this ballot drive, but that’s not going to be enough. We need to be ready with another \$75,000 should the Texas LP and its volunteers fall short of their petitioning goal.

(5) Illinois—The Illinois LP has 90 days, from late March to late June, to gather 25,000 valid signatures. Illinois LP Executive Director Jeff Trigg has developed a plan by which 5/8 of the drive will be handled through volunteer signatures and money raised by the Illinois LP. The national office needs to have \$25,000 ready to go to help get the Illinois LP over the finish line.



Then, there are the legal outrages!

In **Ohio**, the Secretary of State’s office — without validating a single signature of the 57,000+ turned in — ruled that the Ohio LP’s petition was invalid because of minor cosmetic changes to the prescribed petition form we made to make the petition more user friendly. We’ve retained top flight ballot access attorneys, who have sued the Ohio Secretary of State. We have an excellent chance of winning. If we do, we won’t just get dozens of candidates on the ballot in 2004. We may also completely undo the unconstitutional ballot access laws of Ohio — the worst such laws of any major state.

The **Maryland** LP just had thousands of signatures disqualified because some voters neglected to include the year when writing the date — even though it can be proved that all signatures were gathered in 2003. We have sued to get this injustice rectified — and we will!

We’re fighting outrageous ballot access laws — and succeeding in petition drives. But, we can’t keep this moving forward without your generous financial support. Please send a check ASAP to the Libertarian Party Ballot Access Fund, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037, or contribute to the Ballot Access Fund via the LP’s website at www.LP.org. Thank you very much. With your help NOW, every American will have a Libertarian (or several) on their ballot in 2004.

Bill Redpath

William Redpath
LNC Treasurer/Ballot Access Coordinator

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT



A report on the party's goals, accomplishments, shortcomings, and finances in 2003

★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

We're on our way back up

One year ago I wrote a column detailing how difficult a year 2002 was. Today I write on how difficult a year 2003 was, but with a major difference: 2002 was about decline, and 2003 was about ascent.

We started 2003 in a very big hole. We were in a significant debt situation. We were months behind in paying UMP [unified membership payments] to our state affiliates. We were without an Executive Director. The mood in the Party and especially in our National Office was (to be polite) somber.

By year-end, we were current with UMP, no longer in debt (with the exception of a few normal trade debts that every organization carries), and the mood had become more hopeful.

All it took us to get back on the upward track was pain, sacrifice, frustration, stress, dedication, hard work, new thinking, and a not-insignificant amount of sweat. Of course, it also took the support of you, our members, both financially and emotionally.

The only way to get out of debt is to spend less than you bring in, which means you either increase revenues, reduce expenses, or do both. We decided we had to do both.

We had tried to handle our crisis while minimizing the impact on staff. By 2003, it became obvious that all we'd done was to reach a level of stasis. Eliminating our debts would require more drastic actions.

Brutal reality forced us to implement staff reductions. Some of the departing employees were people I had known and worked with for many years. Others were people I hardly knew. Terminating their employment with the LP was not easy, but I could see no other alternatives.

I also knew we needed leadership that could carry us forward. I'd been functioning as executive director, chair, and a family man to boot, and not doing any of these tasks nearly well enough. I spent what time I could at our National Office, but it was never enough. We needed an executive director to provide leadership from our National Office.

Joe Seehusen was hired into that position in May, and it did not take long for his leadership to manifest. Joe has become my partner in remaking the inner structure and workings of the National Office.

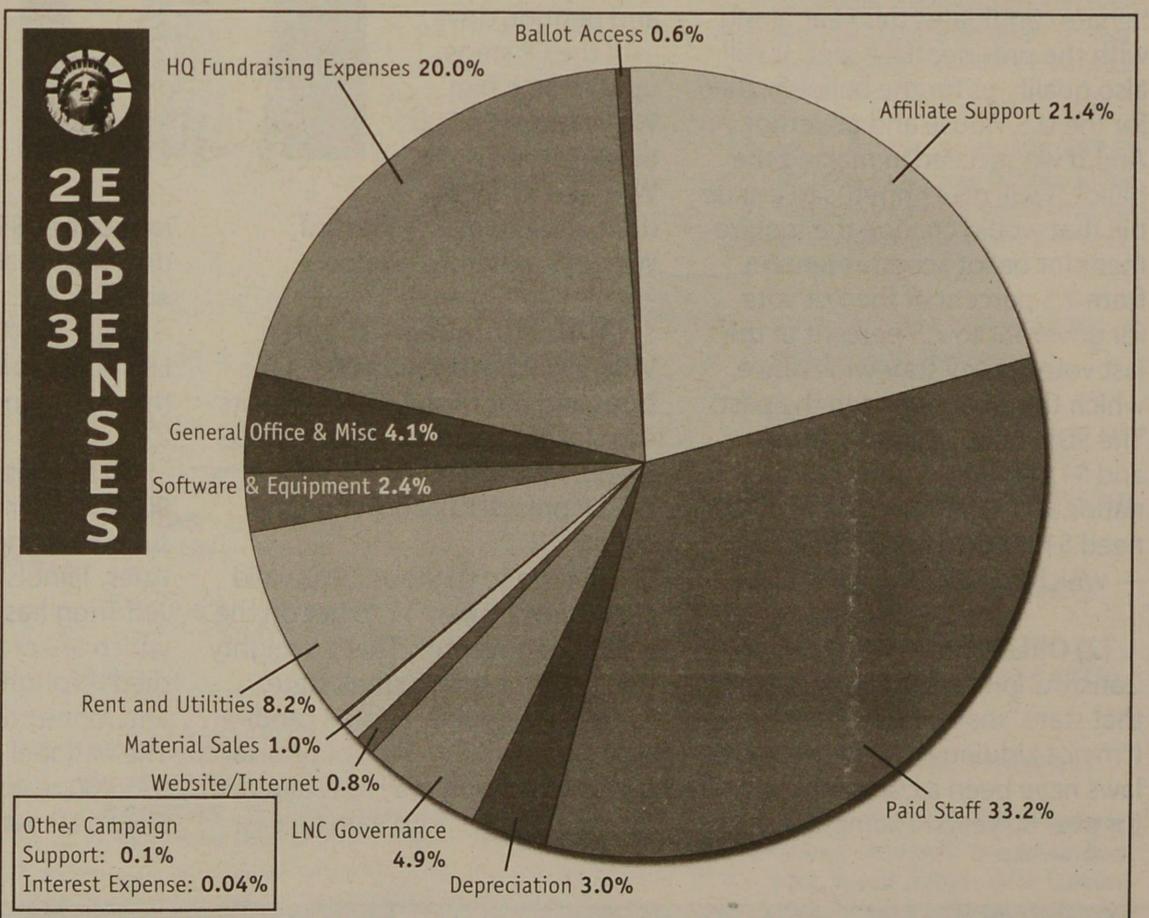
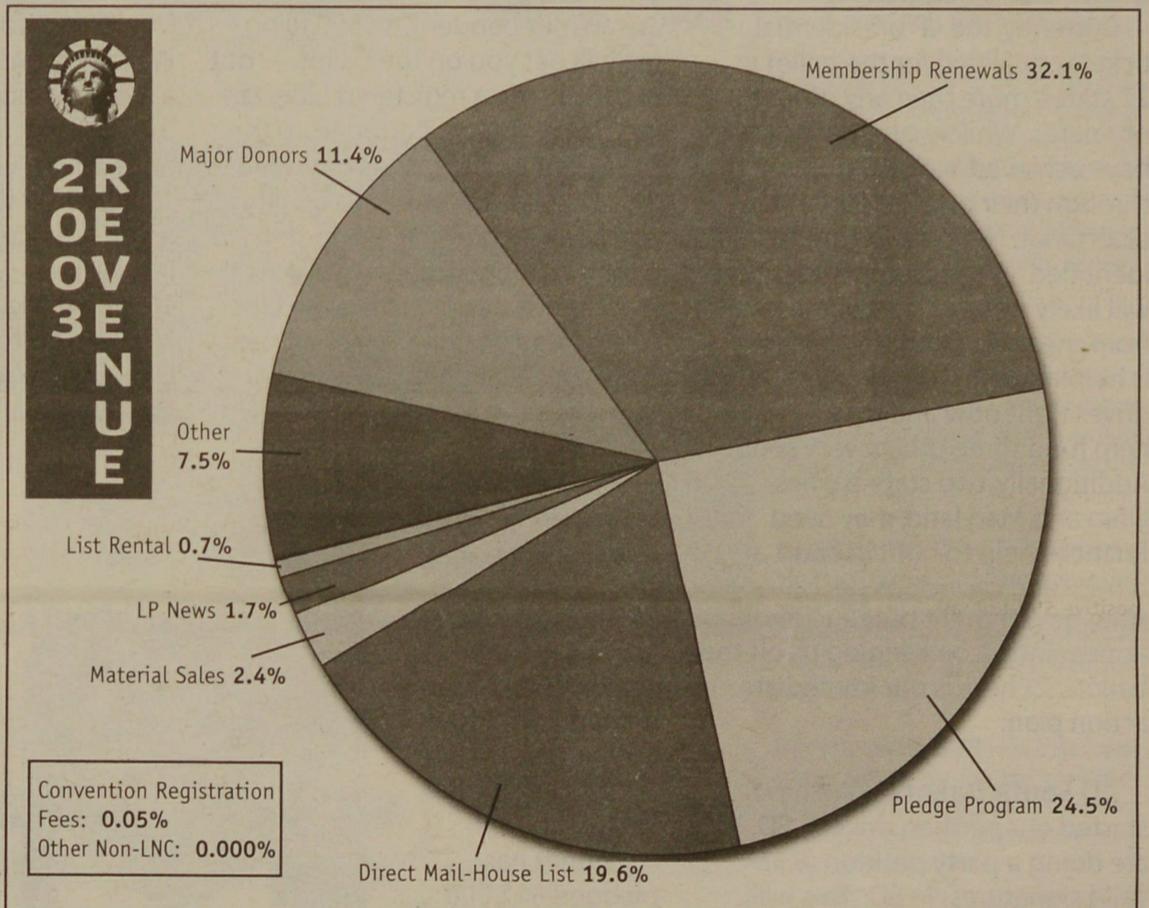
What we're going through is a normal business process. We're transitioning from the "Mom and Pop" business model to the small corporate model.

In the "Mom and Pop" business model, the founders are so entwined in the inner workings, and retain so much knowledge about the business, that the very existence of the business is threatened, even while seeming



■ GEOFF NEALE
LP CHAIR

See **CHAIRMAN** on Page 19



LIBERTARIAN PARTY  2003 ANNUAL REPORT

★ LP TREASURER'S REPORT

2003: Ups & downs

The year 2003 was a mixed bag for the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. ("LNC"), which experienced both positive and distinctly negative circumstances during the year.

Among the positive aspects of the year was a greatly improved financial condition, in which liabilities were more than cut in half.

The LNC's liabilities fell from \$616,186, as of Dec. 31, 2002, to \$299,702, as of Dec. 31, 2003. Meanwhile, net worth (total assets minus total liabilities) increased, from a negative \$113,574 on the last day of 2002, to a positive \$59,139, as of Dec. 31, 2003.

This was effected more than 100 percent through expense reductions, as membership numbers and total revenues for the LNC continued to fall.

MEMBERSHIP: The decline in membership continued in 2003. As of December 31, 2003, there were 19,410 dues-paying members of the national Libertarian Party, down from 22,923 at the beginning of 2003, for a decline of 15.3 percent. Our membership peaked at 33,419, as of May 31, 2000. That means the year-end 2003 national LP membership was down 41.9 percent from its peak in mid-2000.

Fortunately, the pace of membership decline has slowed. The decline per month was less in the last four months of 2003 than in the first eight months.

REVENUES: Total revenues for the LNC hit a record of \$3,576,627 in 2000 and have declined from there. Revenues were roughly \$2.1

million in both 2001 and 2002, with convention revenues helping out in 2002.

Total revenues fell in 2003 to \$1,714,586, a decline of 16.1 percent from 2002's \$2,043,291. However, if convention registration fees and convention fundraising are subtracted from 2002 revenues, total revenue fell only 8.3 percent. (There was no national convention in 2003.)

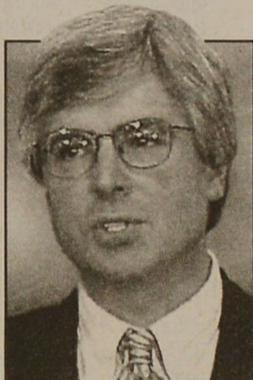
EXPENSES: There was a drastic reduction in LNC expenses in 2003. After average annual expenses of \$2,409,322 in 1998, 1999, 2001 and 2002 — the last four years in which there was not a presidential election — total expenses in 2003 were only \$1,427,118. That's a

40 percent decrease in expenses. The biggest line item decreases were Ballot Access (only \$8,084 of expense), General Office and Miscellaneous expense. With the end of the Drug War Focus Strategy, expenses ended for that.

With no convention in 2003, there were no convention organizing expenses. You will see no expense categorized to *LP News*.

It should be noted that due to a new chart of accounts that came with a new accounting system at LPHQ, some 2003 expenses are included in different expense categories than had previously been the case.

BOTTOM LINE: After net deficits of \$70,402 in 2001 and \$224,522 in 2002, the LNC returned to a net surplus of \$287,468 in 2003. This is what led to the excess of book value of assets over book value of liabilities, as of December 31, 2003.



BILL REDPATH
LP TREASURER

RE: The Balance Sheet Summary chart

Because of a change in the chart of accounts at Libertarian Party headquarters, some of the 2003 expenses and revenue line items no longer coincide with the labels applied to them in previous years.

Attempting a direct comparison between 2003 revenues and expenses and their correlating figures in 2002 and prior years could lead to incorrect conclusions.

As Treasurer Bill Redpath noted in his column above, there is no expense categorized to *LP News*. That does not mean that there is no cost to produce this publication, but that the costs are now absorbed into other line items in the budget.

 **1999-2003 LNC Balance Sheet Summary**

DATE	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02	12/31/03
Assets	\$680,016	\$723,523	\$679,165	\$502,611	\$358,841
Liabilities	\$523,349	\$473,345	\$496,133	\$616,186	\$299,702
Net Worth	\$156,667	\$250,178	\$183,032	(\$113,574)	\$59,139
Gain (Loss)	\$135,544	\$93,511	(67,146)	(\$296,606)	\$172,713

 **LNC Revenue & Expense Summary 1999-2003**

LNC Revenue	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
Revenue: HQ Fundraising					
Direct Mail - House List	\$622,739	\$969,496	\$441,515	\$331,384	\$335,847
Pledge Program	\$493,811	\$502,661	\$479,545	\$435,217	\$419,748
Membership Renewals	\$434,822	\$443,710	\$409,745	\$331,402	\$550,471
Major Donors	\$166,518	\$292,003	\$74,665	\$141,900	\$195,954
Telephone Fundraising	\$72,427	\$135,793	\$83,347	\$49,912	\$—
Email/Web Fundraising	\$42,076	\$110,080	\$139,207	\$169,098	\$—
Other	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$128,318
Subtotal HQ					
Fundraising Revenue	\$1,832,393	\$2,453,743	\$1,628,024	\$1,458,913	\$1,630,338
Other Revenue					
Convention Registration Fees	\$—	\$242,145	\$—	\$145,387	\$897
Convention Fundraising	\$—	\$130,034	\$—	\$28,930	\$—
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$439,459	\$229,285	\$116,664	\$41,255	\$—
Website	\$47,795	\$109,880	\$82,125	\$—	\$—
List Rental	\$21,760	\$87,562	\$39,559	\$36,583	\$12,075
Dues Via State Affiliates	\$95,372	\$84,396	\$75,240	\$53,588	\$—
White Mail & Misc	\$132,466	\$82,095	\$56,816	\$28,223	\$—
LP News	\$55,200	\$80,985	\$65,415	\$65,003	\$29,865
Material Sales	\$45,877	\$76,502	\$44,953	\$58,435	\$41,402
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$126,974	\$—
Other	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$9
Subtotal Other Revenue	\$837,929	\$1,122,885	\$480,772	\$584,378	\$84,248
Total Revenue	\$2,670,322	\$3,576,627	\$2,108,796	\$2,043,291	\$1,714,586
LNC Expenses					
Paid Staff	\$489,117	\$574,507	\$577,805	\$564,514	\$474,246
Affiliate Support	\$483,170	\$525,377	\$487,149	\$384,911	\$305,174
Ballot Access (LP & Candidates)	\$86,148	\$507,105	\$100,101	\$134,367	\$8,084
HQ Fundraising Expenses	\$249,193	\$356,602	\$240,991	\$310,532	\$286,302
Convention Organizing	\$7,425	\$314,698	\$10,562	\$310,532	\$—
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$693,661	\$335,660	\$177,325	\$16,095	\$—
Advertising (Candidates & LP)	\$—	\$262,273	\$27,113	\$—	\$—
LP News	\$129,026	\$135,253	\$135,491	\$108,177	\$—
General Office & Misc.	\$125,182	\$110,099	\$122,498	\$176,090	\$58,712
Software & Equipment	\$108,002	\$90,001	\$33,360	\$26,084	\$34,575
Rent & Utilities	\$83,289	\$88,699	\$92,197	\$97,242	\$118,320
Other Campaign Support	\$6,705	\$55,549	\$4,864	\$—	\$1,500
Material Sales	\$38,139	\$45,952	\$29,708	\$50,758	\$14,733
Website/Internet	\$49,609	\$33,136	\$16,514	\$14,730	\$11,762
Governance (LNC)	\$30,722	\$31,401	\$123,520	\$59,001	\$69,905
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$130,720	\$—
Branding & Marketing	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$44,509	\$—
Depreciation	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$43,200
Interest Expense	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$605
Total Expenses	\$2,579,388	\$3,466,310	\$2,179,198	\$2,267,813	\$1,427,118
NET INCOME	\$90,933	\$110,317	(\$70,402)	(\$224,522)	\$287,468

LIBERTARIAN PARTY  2003 ANNUAL REPORT

★ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It's been a remarkable year

Let's face it: 2003 was the year that tried our party's soul.

It was the year that the ravages of war and recession continued to take a toll on the country — and on our party. We plunged deeply into debt and dug ourselves out of it, fighting back from the brink of bankruptcy.

We set a new record for Libertarians in office. (Yes, we still have more than all other third parties combined.) We booted incumbent Republicans and Democrats out of office in five states, while our incumbents held their seats! We pulled off a "clean sweep" of City Council races in Michigan. We saved taxpayers \$2.1 billion in a single day. And we ridiculed the drug warriors for their hypocrisy — as the media cheered!

Our remarkable financial turnaround

In mid-2003, our party had fallen deeply into debt. Like many nonprofits, we had been clobbered by a combination of the recession and the aftermath of the September 11 terror attacks, when donations plummeted, devastating many other nonprofit organizations.

Then the anthrax incident came along. I still don't know how many donations we lost when all that mail was destroyed. And all the while, the years-long economic recession has made it harder for many of our supporters to send their regular donations.

As a result, we were \$400,000 in debt. I knew this debt was the first thing I had to fix when I was hired as the LP's new executive director last year.

I immediately ordered two things done: We cut costs, streamlined our office and started running our party like a business. And we asked for your help with the revenue side of the equation.

In emergency appeals to our membership, I bluntly laid out our predicament, telling you that I wanted to turn the LP around, and that I couldn't do it without your help.

You responded like true heroes and patriots, and helped bring your party back into the black. Our bills are paid, and our revenue stream is almost back to normal.

Growing political potency

We didn't let our cash crunch interfere with the LP's mission: "To

move public policy in a Libertarian direction, by building a party that elects Libertarians to public office."

Even though 2003 was an off-year election, we racked up 40 wins in 12 states. That's more victories than in comparable off years like 1997 and 1999, and more than in the presidential election years of 1996 and 2000!

Half of these victories came in higher-level races such as city and county council. Libertarians were elected to higher-level offices in seven states in 2003: Michigan, Wisconsin, Indiana, Idaho, Washington state, North Carolina and Iowa.

LP officeholders will now have the power to improve the lives of more Americans by slashing taxes, repealing business regulations and restoring freedom.

Meanwhile, our incumbents held their seats, with nearly 30 percent of our victories consisting of incumbent Libertarians earning re-election.

In Michigan, for example, three incumbent LP candidates were elected in a "clean sweep" of City Council races — and two other Libertarians were elected to City Council seats for the first time. And Democratic and Republicans lost their seats!

Likewise, in many other states, sitting Democrats and Republicans were booted out of office by their Libertarian challengers.

The lesson is clear: When our candidates run aggressive, well-funded campaigns, they can triumph over Republicans and Democrats. As 2003 drew to a close we had a record 596 Libertarians serving in public office nationwide. That's far more than all other third parties combined!

Saving taxpayers money — including \$2.1 billion in a single day!

That's what happened on November 4.

Despite being outspent 40-to-1, Libertarians in Brevard County, Florida helped defeat a \$1.3 billion sales tax hike for school, road and library "infrastructure."

In Arizona, Pima County Libertarians led the fight against two proposals to finance a light-rail system and other transportation boondoggles, saving residents at least \$800 million over two decades.

The Littleton, Colorado LP led the fight to abolish a grocery tax, saving residents \$600,000 a year.

Santa Clara County, California Libertarians persuaded voters to reject a \$750,000 property tax hike for government-run arts and sports programs.

Fortunately, the fight against tax-grabbing, money-grubbing politicians wasn't limited to November 4.

In a special election on September 9, Alabama Libertarians led the charge against a massive, \$1.4 billion tax hike proposed by Republican governor Bob Riley. A 68 percent majority rejected the

tax hike, earning the LP statewide media coverage in the process.

Let's see, \$2.1 billion plus \$1.4 billion equals ... \$3.5 billion in new taxes that were prevented by Libertarian activism -- not bad for an "off-year" election!

Defending civil liberties

Libertarians also rose up to defend civil liberties by taking aim at the misnamed USA Patriot Act, helping to persuade local governments across the country to repudiate the federal law. One example: Spurred on by the Alaska LP, the state assembly created legislation exempting Juneau from the Patriot Act — and it passed with only one dissenting vote!

And with these political successes came more state, local and national media attention, including Libertarian Party guests on CNN's "Crossfire," and on a Lou Dobbs series on the drug war.

In November we got a burst of media coverage after Rush Limbaugh revealed he had become addicted to illegal painkillers — while other loud-mouthed drug warriors like William Bennett and Gen. Barry McCaffrey had suddenly come down with laryngitis.

We issued a press release saying America owes Rush Limbaugh a



JOE SEEHUSEN
LP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



LP State-by-State Membership Numbers

Libertarian Party membership as of December 31, 2003. This chart shows "raw" membership numbers per state; the number of members in each state per million population; each state's growth/loss in 2003 in "raw" numbers; each state's growth/loss as a percentage; and each state's growth/loss per population.

Change since:	Growth	%Growth	Growth/pop				
December 31, 2002	-3508	-15.3	-12.3				
State	Number of Members	Density per Million Pop.	Growth/Loss (Number)	Growth/Loss (Percentage)	Growth/Loss (Population)		
CA	3444	AK 190.6	OR 21	IA 7.2	AK 9.5		
TX	1033	NH 165.2	IA 13	OR 5.8	OR 6.0		
FL	1024	CO 119.7	AK 6	AK 5.2	IA 4.4		
GA	969	VT 115.8	WY -3	WY -5.2	KY -3.2		
MI	832	GA 115.6	SD -4	NJ -8.4	WV -4.4		
PA	745	WY 111.2	ND -5	KY -9.0	NJ -5.2		
IL	692	NV 110.6	WV -8	IN -9.7	SD -5.3		
OH	666	OR 110.6	RI -9	MD -9.8	LA -6.0		
WA	660	WA 110.2	DE -10	HI -9.9	WY -6.1		
NY	647	CA 99.8	HI -10	NV -10.4	MS -6.3		
VA	636	DC 97.9	KY -13	WV -10.4	NY -7.0		
IN	532	NM 92.9	MT -13	SD -10.8	TN -7.1		
CO	529	VA 88.5	ME -14	UT -10.8	OK -7.2		
MA	501	IN 87.0	DC -15	ME -11.3	MD -7.3		
NJ	479	ME 85.5	UT -17	VA -11.4	SC -7.4		
NC	465	MT 85.1	MS -18	TN -11.5	UT -7.5		
OR	384	MI 83.3	NE -21	SC -11.8	ND -7.9		
MD	361	MA 78.5	VT -23	NC -12.9	HI -8.2		
AZ	333	HI 74.3	OK -25	CA -13.5	NC -8.4		
TN	316	DE 72.8	LA -27	NM -14.1	RI -8.5		
MO	287	CT 67.7	NV -27	FL -14.2	IN -9.3		
MN	270	MD 67.2	NM -28	CT -14.4	WI -9.6		
WI	256	IA 66.4	KS -30	MT -14.4	MN -9.9		
AL	234	ID 62.8	SC -30	DE -14.7	TX -10.1		
NV	233	AZ 62.7	AR -33	NH -14.8	FL -10.3		
CT	232	FL 62.5	NH -36	KS -15.2	ME -10.9		
SC	225	KS 62.0	CT -39	MN -15.4	OH -11.0		
NH	208	UT 61.7	MD -39	OH -15.8	KS -11.1		
IA	194	PA 60.6	TN -41	ND -16.1	CT -11.4		
NM	170	OH 58.6	NJ -44	OK -16.3	VA -11.4		
KS	167	NC 56.8	MN -49	WA -16.9	IL -11.5		
UT	140	NJ 56.5	WI -52	WI -16.9	AR -12.3		
KY	132	IL 55.4	IN -57	RI -17.0	NE -12.3		
LA	131	SC 55.4	ID -59	IL -17.1	DE -12.6		
OK	128	TN 55.1	NC -69	LA -17.1	NV -12.8		
AK	121	MN 54.3	MO -75	NY -17.1	PA -12.8		
ME	110	AL 52.4	VA -82	TX -17.3	MO -13.3		
HI	91	MO 51.0	AL -85	PA -17.4	MT -14.4		
AR	88	TX 48.4	AZ -85	MI -18.8	NM -15.3		
ID	83	WI 47.4	OH -125	CO -20.0	CA -15.6		
MT	77	SD 43.6	CO -132	AZ -20.3	AZ -16.0		
VT	71	RI 41.6	NY -133	GA -20.5	AL -19.0		
WV	69	ND 41.0	WA -134	MO -20.7	MI -19.3		
NE	67	NE 39.1	IL -143	DC -21.1	WA -22.4		
MS	59	WV 38.3	PA -157	MS -23.4	MA -25.7		
DE	58	OK 37.0	MA -164	NE -23.9	DC -26.2		
DC	56	NY 34.0	FL -169	VT -24.5	NH -28.6		
WY	55	AR 32.7	MI -193	MA -24.7	GA -29.8		
RI	44	KY 32.5	TX -216	AL -26.6	CO -29.9		
SD	33	LA 29.3	GA -250	AR -27.3	VT -37.5		
ND	26	MS 20.6	CA -537	ID -41.5	ID -44.7		

Areas with currently recognized affiliates: 19,363
Other U.S. areas (10) / APO+FPO (27) / Non-US (10) 47
Total Libertarian Party Membership 19,410

Overall density: 68 members per million population

Density and growth/pop calculations are based on Census Bureau state population estimates for July 1, 2001.

See **EXECUTIVE** on Page 19

LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2003 ANNUAL REPORT

★ FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Continued from Page 18

debt of gratitude for exposing these "despicable drug war hypocrites," and our broadcast interviews were heard on 171 stations around the country.

A few days later we learned that our release had been posted in a surprising place: the online edition of Pravda, the official house organ for the former Soviet government. If former communists can figure out that the drug war is a sham, can American Republicans and Democrats be far behind?

My favorite TV call of the year: On October 23, an ABC News reporter announced that he plans to cover our upcoming convention in Atlanta!

But there's a negative side, too

Yes, we had a number of impressive political and media successes in 2003, and I expect that to continue as we head into 2004. Unfortunately, the news from last year wasn't all good.

Membership continued its downward trend in 2003, down to about 20,000 from 2002's 22,500, and from our all-time high of almost 34,000 in 2000.

I believe this is a direct result of the financial crisis that we faced last year. Others have been lost due to attrition, and we lacked the

resources to seek out those lost members or attract new ones.

Nonetheless, there are a few bright spots in the membership area.

The numbers seem to be leveling off. We lost far fewer members in 2003 than in each of the two previous years; the number of monthly pledgers is increasing, from 2,044 to 2,383 in one year, an increase of 17 percent; and lapsed members are coming back.

Now we're ready to start prospecting again. Our 2004 budget includes money for direct mail outreach, and I want to invest this money prudently to start rebuilding our membership base.

It's critical, also, that our current members renew their membership.

We've already started a number of important projects for the 2004 elections, and we're counting on supporters like you to help us fund them. If you don't come through for us, these projects will come to a grinding halt, and that would ruin any hope of having an impact in this critical election year.

Together, we rescued the LP from the brink of financial disaster in 2003. Please don't let that success go to waste now that we have a chance to make a difference in 2004.

★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Continued from Page 16

to be successful. Only about one in 10 businesses successfully transitions from a "Mom and Pop" to a small corporation. The rest fail because knowledge is retained in the people, not in the organization.

We should not question the dedication, devotion and commitment of the staff that brought the Party to 2003. Unfortunately, dedication, devotion and commitment are not enough.

What we are doing now is making that transition from personal knowledge to institutional knowledge.

This manifests in many ways. Much of what staff does was not written down, and that's changing. We're documenting every function in the National Office so that we can weather staff changes.

Another manifestation is in our computer systems. We have relied heavily on custom written applications. Every time we bring in a new worker, we have to train that worker. Before year-end, we will be fully transitioned to a system that is the standard for the non-profit industry. The upfront costs may seem high, but the ongoing costs are extremely low. If we need temporary staff, there are thousands of workers in the DC area that know this package. If we need customized functionality, there are thousands of programmers that know this package.

Likewise, with our accounting software, we were using a relatively uncommon package. Now we are using Quickbooks, and it's hard to find accountants that are NOT familiar with Quickbooks.

There are far too many other examples to chronicle in a short column, but we'll be addressing our shortcomings one by one. Success and quality are both choices: choices Joe and I have made.

If we are to be the "one out of ten", we must succeed. One by one, we're addressing and solving the institutional problems that face us. Very soon, we'll begin prospecting for new members again.

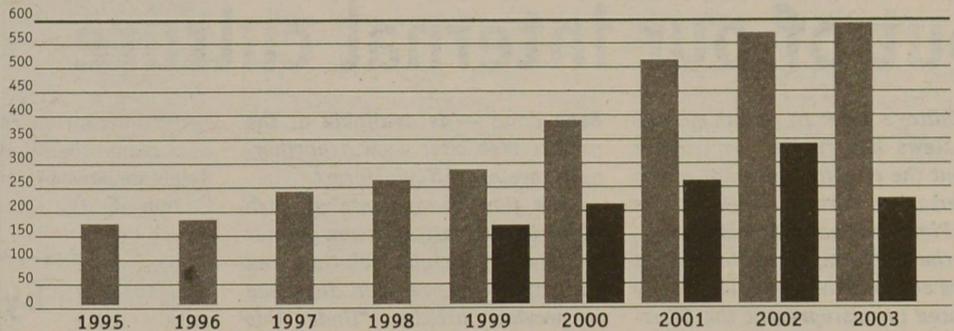
We're not out of the woods. There are still many challenges facing us. We haven't risen completely out of the depths of our crisis.

But we're much more than halfway there, and with your support, we will succeed.



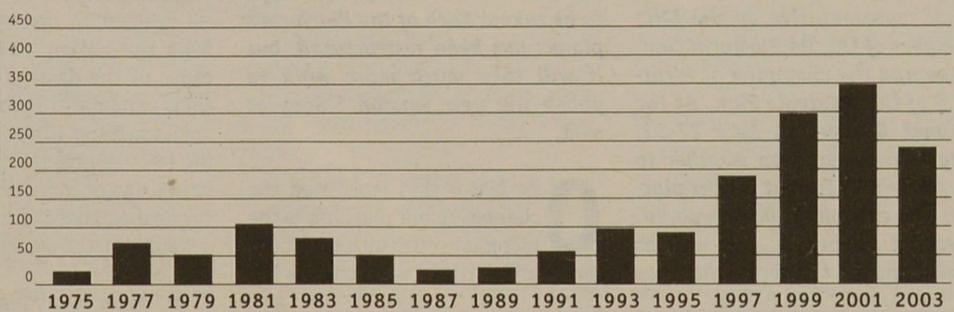
LIBERTARIANS
IN
PUBLIC OFFICE

Libertarians in office: Elected+appointed ('95-'03)(grey); plus elected only ('99-'03)(blk)



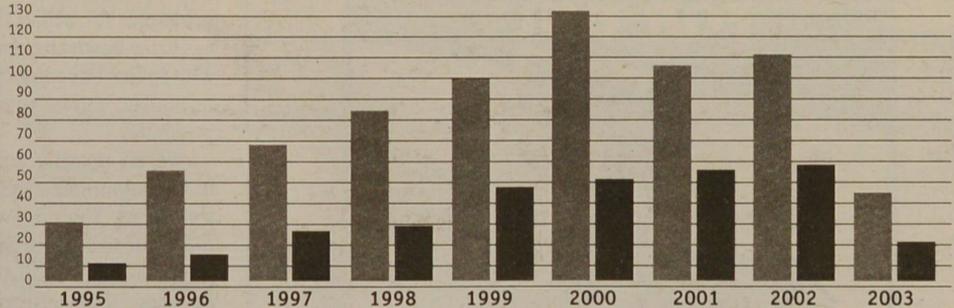
LIBERTARIAN
CANDIDATES
1975-2003:
ODD YEARS

Libertarian candidates for public office (odd years, 1975-2003)



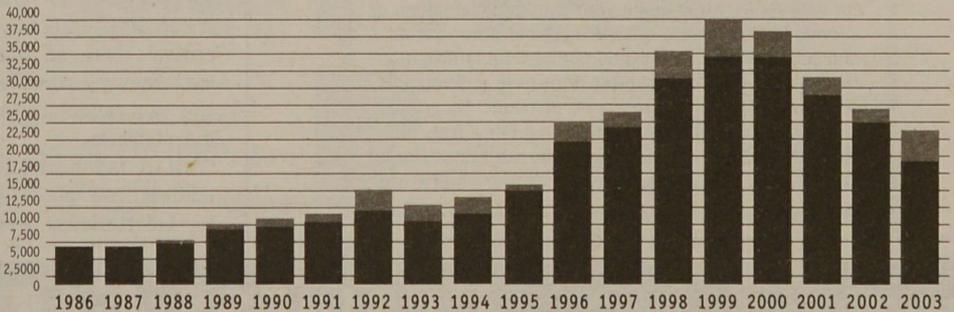
MONTHLY MEDIA
CONTACTS & INTERVIEWS

Average monthly media contacts at LP headquarters (gray) and interviews (black)



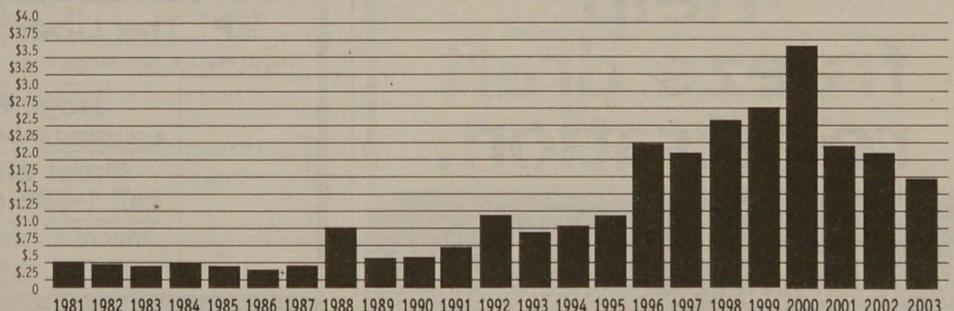
LIBERTARIAN PARTY
MEMBERS &
CONTRIBUTORS
1986-2003

Libertarian Party members (black) and contributors (gray), 1986-2003



LIBERTARIAN PARTY
REVENUE
1981-2003

Money raised by the Libertarian Party (in millions)



THE FORUM

LP Platform reformat: Stepping out of our internal culture

■ *Editor's note:* In recent months LP News has run a few articles about the ongoing reformat of the Libertarian Party's Platform. The '04 Platform Committee is reworking the platform, trying to make it more easily understood, less easily twisted to misrepresent the Libertarian message, and ultimately, to make it a better representation of the LP's positions.

The author of this column, George Squyres of Arizona, is a regional representative on the LNC, a member of the '04 Platform Committee and the champion of Strategy 3 of the Strategic Plan. At the National Convention May 27-31, delegates will vote on whether to accept the new format for the platform this committee has prepared. A request for input — as well as a full copy of the work that has

been done — is available at the project Web site: www.aznothernalliance.org/LNCplatform/.

The four components of each plank in the platform's new format — issue, principle, solution and transition — have been discussed in previous articles. "Under this proposed format, we define the issue from a Libertarian perspective, state how libertarian principle addresses it, propose our solutions, and show the specific steps to be taken. Each of the Platform's planks has been restructured, but it will take much more work to polish the new version," Squyres said.

One factor that motivated the changes in our platform is the incredible difficulties that our candidates have faced when the im-

perfections in the current platform have reared their ugly heads in candidate debates and other venues.

Indeed, the gravity of these problems didn't come home to many until some of our best and brightest — such as Indiana's central committee and Virginia's Prince William County LP — decided to distance themselves from the national LP platform because of the damage being done to their candidates by opposition spin doctors. Many in the party, unwilling to recognize the flaws in the existing document, raised a hue and cry against these "traitors," another example of the misplaced emotions that divide us.

A major question we have to answer is, "For whom do we write the platform?" Too often the platform has simply been the venue for some in the party to stand up and display their colors, to proclaim the principles for which they stand, and to throw down the gauntlet to those who follow expediency in politics rather than principle.

We all do this and it is admirable that we have the moral fiber to stand up in public and be resolute in our convictions, something noticeably absent in American politics — with very few bright exceptions such as Ron Paul. But it does not address the critical issue of who we should consider the real audience of our platform.

It is redundant to address the platform to Libertarians, who

already know what we stand for. The audience must be those out in the non-Libertarian world, those we want to convert to our cause and whose votes we seek.

The ones we most need to speak to are those don't know what we stand for and whose only knowledge of us come from devious sources such as Rush Limbaugh, Bill O'Reilly and James Carville. If this broader audience is to be convinced that we are right, then the platform — as the chief public face of our party — must speak to them in a language they understand.

We must speak to the skeptical non-Libertarian, rather than to the LP faithful.

The current platform, with its references to "the cult of the omnipotent state" and such blanket statements as "taxation is theft," is primarily written in jargon. Jargon, technically speaking, is language that is internal to a specific group, and which is not understood outside of that group.

To understand this, it is only necessary to reflect on the grammar and language of the many computer geeks in our midst, and to consider that those of us who are "digitally challenged" often are unable to make sense out of what they say. Yet they understand themselves quite well, and many times stare at us in a mixture of disdain and pity when we don't understand them.

The average American voter will react to Libertarian phrases like "the cult of the omnipotent state" in the same way we non-computer-

literate people react to the geeks in our midst. They will look at us blankly, uncomprehending. These words — which are second nature to Libertarians and are the bedrock of our understanding of the threats to freedom we fight so strongly to oppose — are strange, if not downright incomprehensible, to outsiders. They do not understand or relate to many things that we as Libertarians of long standing and intense commitment take for granted.

This may sound unlikely, or even impossible, to many among us; that isn't a reflection of its lack of truth, but is instead a measure of the insularity of many in the party, those who have been doing this for a long time. "The right to self-medicate" and "taxation is theft" are phrases that reflect our internal culture far more than they reflect an issue as perceived by the mainstream public.

The grudging acceptance of this recognition by even our most hard boiled activists has enabled us to finally see our way clear to fixing the problem. The new format lends itself well to correcting issues such as this. By framing the platform differently, we as Libertarians may be able to see ourselves more clearly and recognize where we differ from many whom we are trying to reach.

If we can step away from these phrases and the self-affirmation in them, we will have taken the first step in writing a platform that will not cause our affiliates to distance themselves from it — and from the rest of us.

By George Squyres



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THE VOLUNTEER

Literature can make—or break—a political campaign

If you want to run a professional campaign, your literature needs to look professional. Spend the money to get good professional photos taken, and have your campaign literature designed by somebody who knows what he is doing.

Then have it printed by a quality printer. Glossy paper looks better than standard stock, and use two colors at a minimum — full color if you can afford it.

Think about photos that you will need in your campaign literature and don't wait until the last minute to take them. In addition to a professional portrait, some of the most commonly used photos include: in front of city hall; with seniors and children; with other community leaders or at community events; or

By Greg Dirasian



at volunteer or church events.

Keep your campaign literature simple. Pick three to five issues and stick to them. Stick to the issues, preferably with bullet points. If you don't get their attention in the first few words, your campaign literature will be tossed. People will not read long diatribes.

Your campaign literature should be a logical progression. Start off with an introductory piece, add an

issues piece, and finish off with a piece about goals for — or the future of — the city.

Expect to publish three pieces to likely voters and a special letter to absentee voters. You may need more; it depends on your particular campaign.

[Originally published in the *Michigan Libertarian*, Nov./Dec. 2003.]

Advice from The Troika: Stay positive about going negative

By Barbara Goushaw-Collins



"I just say whatever I think I can get away with, then let my opposition spend a few million to correct it." — famous Republican campaign consultant on Meet the Press.

"No, I'm not going to call my opponent a [expletive], I'm just going to get him to deny it." — Lyndon Johnson.

See what we are up against? That's how the major parties play the game. They get dirty, without regard for the truth. They sling mud like two-year-old kids in a rainstorm. And while voters complain about it and the media condemn it, negative campaigning works.

If it didn't, they wouldn't do it. So where does that leave us? With this fundamental political fact: If you are running against a popular incumbent, you have to give the voters a reason to fire him. If you don't, they won't. Luckily for us, this is not too difficult. I have yet

to find an incumbent who did not have something that could be used as a reason for his removal.

However, obtaining this information takes research. Research into their records. Research into their financing. Research into their past. Research into their positions. Research their quotes in old newspapers.

Opposition research is fundamental to a successful campaign. The Internet, the library, old campaign literature, newspaper archives, and campaign finance reports all contain potential information.

Once you have the dirt, then you have to decide if, when and how to

use it.

Where do I draw the line? That depends on the race and the opponent. Your opponent's voting record, position on the issues, actions as an officeholder and financing are almost always fair game.

An opponent's personal life is only fair game if he is taking a "holier than thou" stance and I have information that directly contradicts that.

Then you have to make certain that your information is truthful.

That's key. I never, ever, compromise my candidate's integrity by putting out "whatever I think I can get away with."

I want to win — but not like

that.

Finally, you have to make sure that the information is believable, easily explained in a short paragraph, and worthy of voter attention.

I think the voters have a right to know if my opponent has voted himself a pay raise, or has gone back on a campaign promise. Part of my job is to make sure they get that information. And if all the other pieces of the campaign are done right, then providing that information to the voters may just be the final step that gets my candidate elected.

Election night parties are a lot more fun when you are celebrating a win.

[This essay reprinted from the July/August 2003 issue of the *Michigan Libertarian*.]

About the authors: Barbara Goushaw-Collins and Greg Dirasian are two-thirds of The Troika, a campaign management team in Michigan.

Their candidates have won five out of six races in the past few years, and they've contributed to two other wins.

The third member of The Troika, Berkley, Mich., city councilman Fred Collins, will join them in Atlanta, Ga., as they lead a candidate training workshop at the LP national convention on May 27.

Car emissions testing

Continued from Page 11

be obligated to pay for inspections," especially when the very dirtiest cars aren't going to be inspected, May said.

Travis and Williamson counties have tentatively approved this portion of the compact presented by the Central Texas Clean Air Force, but May said he and other Libertarians in the region will continue fighting the "wasteful and harmful government program."

"Nobody else is opposing the Clean Air Force," said Rick McGinnis, vice chair of Travis County Libertarians.

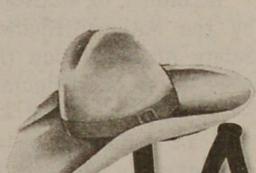
"I lived in Los Angeles for years, and it's a real mess having to go get your tail pipe sniffed every year," McGinnis said. "It's a heck of an ex-

pense and a real pain, when most of your cars are newer and aren't going to be causing a problem.

"Here in central Texas, they're talking about exempting older cars and testing only the newer ones. I just scratch my head and wonder, how is it that even the liberals can miss seeing the nonsense in that?"

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LAST CHANCE TO SAVE TEXAS!

For the first time since 1986, Texas must petition to get on the ballot.

- ⊕ We have one month to raise the funds required.
- ⊕ We are the only 3rd party in Texas with a shot at it.
- ⊕ We almost certainly will exceed the requirement to automatically be placed on the 2006 ballot.

This will put us on the ballot for the next 3 years!!

Starting March 10, we have only 75 days to gather more than 80,000 valid signatures from voters who did not participate in the primary election. The window is very short, so we must have funds up front.

Why is Texas important?

- ⊕ Texas has the 2nd largest LP membership in the USA.
- ⊕ Since 1986, we've retained ballot access through election results, but we fell narrowly short in 2002.



- ⊕ We have filed candidates for all US Congressional districts in the state except for Ron Paul's district!
- ⊕ For the last 3 election cycles, we've had more Congressional candidates than any other party.
- ⊕ In 2000, our six Texas statewide candidates received a total of 4,298,871 votes.
- ⊕ In 2004, we will retain ballot access through the ballot box.

Can we count on you?

Texans have helped other states get on the ballot for 18 years without asking a dime of anyone. Will you help us now?

Please send your donations to: Libertarian Party of Texas, Box 27932, Houston TX 77227. Write "Ballot Access" on the notation line, and please send us a note telling us your employer.

Thanks, y'all!!



THE DIRECTOR

A (mathematical) formula for success

Got numerator?
If you visit your Libertarian Party headquarters office in Washington, DC (and I hope you do), you will see my mantra written on the wall: "External marketing" divided by "internal marketing" equals Success.

A while back I heard an editor of *Inc. Magazine* make a startling statement, that success can be reduced to a mathematical formula.

It is: The function of "external marketing" divided by "internal marketing" equals success. (Since it's a mantra, it's good to repeat it.)

External Marketing is the good stuff. All the outward-looking projects and programs.

External marketing is what increases membership or the number of donors, volunteers and activists. It includes strengthening our operations and customer service. Helping our state and affiliate parties to recruit, train and fund-quality candidates in winnable races.

Manning a politically homeless booth, starting a student group on campus, participating in your local, state and national conventions.

It includes media outreach on radio, TV or print. Writing a letter to the editor, introducing a potential donor to your state chair or signing up a new member.

External marketing is all about making the party become bigger, stronger, more prosperous and more influential. Connecting, engaging and making friends with people outside the party.

It's about winning elections and putting real Libertarians in public office. It's about fighting the big, fat, stupid government leviathan every inch of the way, and winning -- like the Oregon LP just did with Prop 30!

Internal Marketing is ... well, the bad stuff. All the inward-looking stuff that keeps us from achieving our mission. It's all the intramural bitching and grousing and carping. Everything emanating from a self-destructive mindset — the back-stabbing, excuse-making, self-serving, undermining, "we will-never-win," or "if we're not a success then we MUST be a failure" stuff.

It's the endless tempest-in-a-teapot dustups, the great debates over ... not much. It's all about supernova ego firestorms and epic battles waged by the flaming e-mail warriors. It's spending time and energy bashing other Libertarians, instead of Democrats and Republicans.

Internal marketing saps our time, our energy and our will. Internal marketing brings no new members into the party, elects no candidates to office, gains no new resources and forges no new alliances.

This may feel good for a select few folk, who it gives an inflated sense of self importance. (Look at me... I'm really angry!) But for the rest of us it's a drag. It's counterproductive and has little, nothing, or less than nothing to do with building a viable political party.

Here's the math. Organizations that have a small numerator (external marketing) over a large denominator end up with a fraction. Those with a large numerator over a small denominator end up with a whole number. The bigger the number the greater the success.

Where does the Libertarian Party come out in this formula?

We have more internal marketing than is useful and less external marketing than is necessary to achieve success.

What should we do? Let's work on the things that grow the party and ignore the things (and people) that don't.

Money, media, members, infrastructure, cooperation, systems, outreach, winning elections: These all help grow the party, and that is where we should focus our attention. As individuals and as a group we all have only so much time, energy and attention. Where we invest it now will determine what harvest we reap in the future.

Organizations have trouble with change. Nobody likes it. We all resist it. When faced with resistance to change in his organization, Gen. Eric Shinseki, chief of staff for the U.S. Army, unleashes his mantra: "If you don't like change, you're going to like irrelevance even less."

To fight the real fight, we need to change. We all need to take stock of ourselves. Instead of investing time and energy in internal feuding and navel-gazing, we must direct toward the real enemy: the Republican and Democratic power elite that contemptuously disregard our Constitution and take our money and freedom with abandon. They are big, but they can be beaten if we are willing to join hands and do the real, hard work of being a political party.

Let the battle begin.



By Joe Seehusen
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Air bags: Necessary safety equipment or legislated killers?

EDITOR'S NOTE: How can Libertarianism solve America's problems? Each issue, *LP News* will showcase how "Libertarian Solutions"—or interim steps in a more libertarian direction—can help improve our nation.

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

Reality check: Does it make sense to enact safety measures that create danger?

If fire extinguishers began exploding, routinely killing 10 or 12 people per year, would our government mandate having them in every home?

Fire extinguishers that kill: That's no bargain, you say. But what if the fire extinguishers sometimes saved lives by putting out fires; would they become more acceptable because of their potential benefits?

Who would advocate buying a device with a history of such failings?

But that is precisely what bureaucrats and politicians have done by mandating airbags in vehicles. They force consumers to pay extra for these devices, and in many cases, they have made it illegal to disconnect them.

Air bags kill

According to statistics released by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in 1999 — the latest figures available — air bags had saved 4,758 lives, with 3.8 million air bags deployed since the late 1980s in the 89 million cars and light trucks equipped with the devices.

Meanwhile, over the same period, air bags themselves were determined to be the cause of death for 146 people — 84 children and 62 adults.

A study by Transport Canada revealed in 2002 that air bags reduce the risk of injury to men by 11 percent, while increasing by 9 percent the risk of injury to women, for an overall risk reduction of only 2 percent for adults who wear seatbelts.

Another Transport Canada study in 2002 showed that air bags actually increase children's risk of death by 21 percent.

Should bureaucrats and politicians force people to use devices proven to kill? Assuredly not.

According to the federal Department of Transportation, air bags deploy at up to 200 mph, propelling a chunk of hard plastic from the vehicle's dashboard or steering wheel or door panel directly into whatever — or whoever — is in the way.

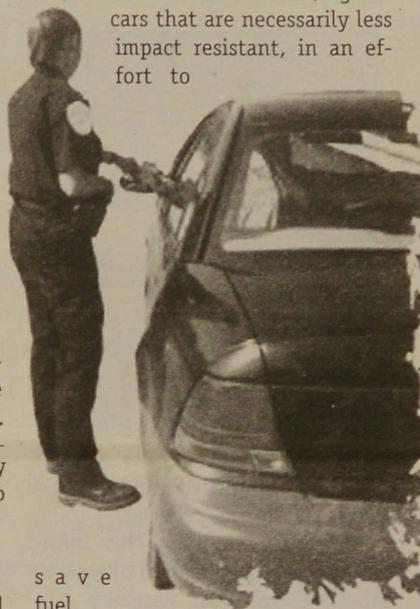
Imagine being hit in the face or chest by an object moving twice as fast as a major league baseball pitcher's fastball, and you're approach-

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

ing the right picture. Broken ribs, broken necks, even decapitation of small children have resulted.

What started this issue?

Safety belts—and later, air bags—became a serious issue in the 1970s, when the government instituted Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency laws, requiring car manufacturers to build smaller, lighter cars that are necessarily less impact resistant, in an effort to



save fuel.

That's why SUVs are so popular: In large part it's a safety issue. The size and weight of the large vehicles makes people feel protected and safe — which they are, compared to the protection provided by government-mandated tin cans with explosive, potentially lethal air bags.

A new Ford Explorer, for example, weighs just about 5,000 pounds, compared to the 4,500-pound weight of a 1975 Ford LTD — a land yacht by anyone's definition. And the Explorer isn't one of the heavier SUVs. A Suburban 2500, still not the heaviest of them, weighs in at 8,600 pounds.

People like these vehicles be-

cause they are safe in ways that can't be had in a light car with seat belts and air bags.

The laws have backfired

For airbags to function as close to properly as possible, the victims must also be wearing seat belts. But even harsh enforcement of seat belt laws doesn't necessarily lead people to buckle up, according to Linda Gorman, a senior fellow at the Independence Institute.

"As the 20-year experiment with artificially low speed limits demonstrated, laws designed to regulate individual risk do not necessarily enjoy high rates of compliance, and low compliance with one law may erode general respect for all laws," she wrote.

And even though states that treat seat belt violations as a primary offense have seat belt use of 12 to 14 percent higher than states where it's a secondary offense, this has not proven to decrease traffic injuries and fatalities.

"In fact," said Gorman and Dwight Filley — also of the Independence Institute — "no jurisdiction that has passed a seat belt law has shown evidence of a reduction in road accident deaths," in part because drivers who are forced to wear seat belts often drive more aggressively.

Reinforcing this claim is a 1993 study by the University of Missouri, which revealed that seat belt laws don't save lives. Rather, the laws "merely determine who will live and who will die," says the study, appropriately named "Reshuffling the Death Certificates."

Because people who wear seat belts feel safer, they drive more recklessly, killing more pedestrians, cyclists, and other motorists — while remaining safer themselves, the study notes.

"In other words, people who are naturally cautious voluntarily choose to wear seat belts, and voluntarily drive safely," Gorman and Filley concluded. "When reckless people are forced to wear seat belts, they 'compensate' for the increased safety by driving more recklessly."

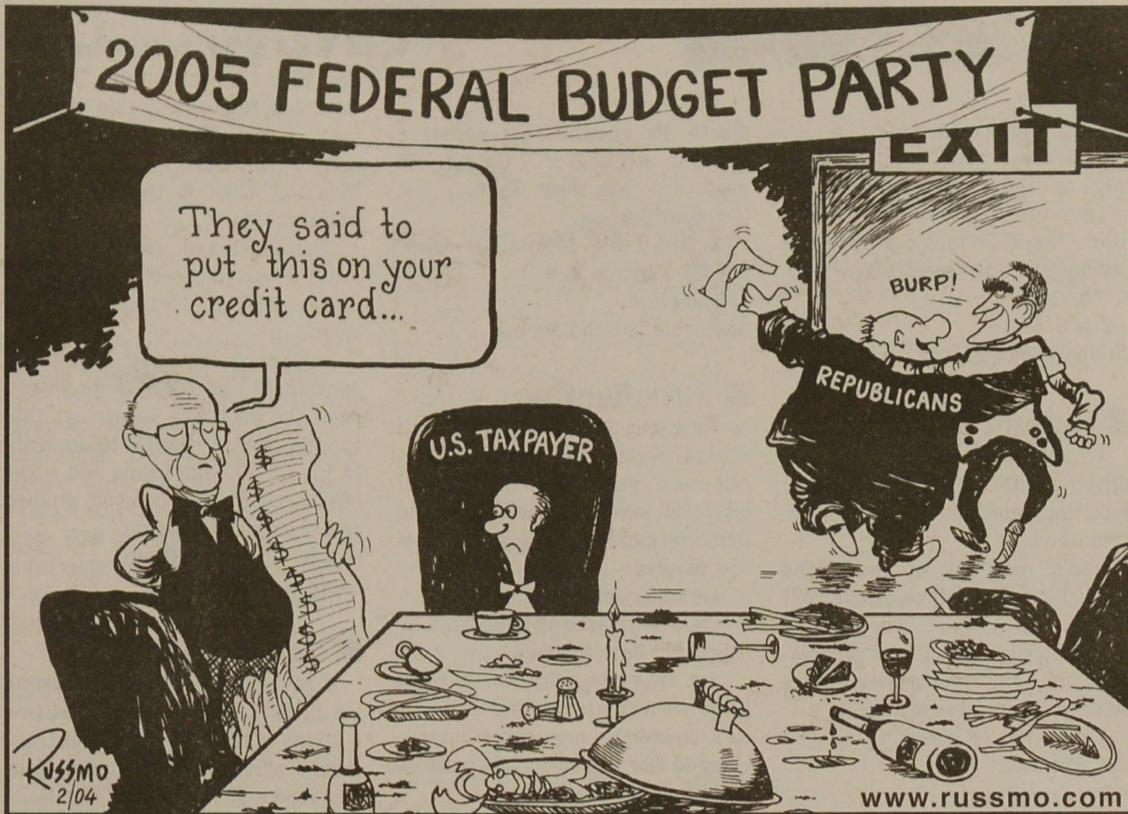
Belts and bags won't save you

According to the National Center for Statistics and Analysis, in 1998 there were 575 children under five years old killed in car accidents. Of them, an estimated 293 (or 51 percent) were unrestrained.

Seat belt law proponents use this statistic to illustrate their pet point: "Look how many lives were lost because those children weren't buckled in," ignoring the facts that half of those killed were restrained, that buckled-up children can be killed and that sometimes they are actually killed because of — not in spite

See **AIRBAGS** Page 26

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THE MAILBOX

■ Thanks, Bill Winter

"Thank you" to Bill Winter for his excellent work on the *LP News*. Each month I've looked forward to its arrival, read it cover to cover and groaned that it was over too soon.

Only those members who are active in the LP can begin to understand the commitment your work required.

—RETTA FONTANA
Rochester, Michigan

■ Gentler arguments

I was looking for some reasoned logic in the February [2004] *LP News* article, "Was the \$820 million invested in the mission to Mars wasted?" Instead, I found pompous statements.

We Libertarians need to come up with less antagonistic rhetoric — gentle persuasion, if you will — if we ever hope to convince significant quantities of citizens to actually vote for us.

We do not need self-serving diatribes to assuage hardcore libertarians. They're not the ones we have to convince.

We don't have to relinquish pure libertarian views in order to provide palatable reasons for people to vote our way.

Yes, I'll admit it: The space program is a government program I am willing to give up.

I know the arguments that private companies and consortia would serve better. But there is no need to insult the dedicated scientists and engineers who have accomplished the truly extraordinary by landing and controlling rovers on another planet.

—ROBERT E. GLASER
Owings Mills, Maryland

LIBERTARIANS
need to come up with
less antagonistic
rhetoric if we ever
hope to convince
significant quantities
of citizens to
actually vote for us.

—ROBERT E. GLASER

■ Support for Kubby

I was glad to see the article about Steve Kubby in the February *LP News*. However, I felt it unfortunate that more support was not stated for the man, for the issue he represents and for the funds the Kubby family of four needs to fight

the various governmental systems that either are oppressing them or turning a somewhat uninterested nose away from their tribulations.

I am begging all of my fellow Libertarians to visit the Kubby website, www.kubby.com. These people have been put through hell by the uncaring American government establishment and still need our help.

—SORRELLS DEWOODY
Independence, Kansas

■ Go Bangalore!

Democratic presidential hopefuls Kerry and Edwards are dumb on free trade. They show either ignorance of basic economics or intellectual dishonesty when they attack free trade like this.

President Bush's main economic advisor, Gregory Mankiw, was right when he said outsourcing jobs is good for America. Adam Smith, who wrote "The Wealth of Nations," said the same thing 228 years ago.

Remember in the 1960s and 70s when far lefties and big labor became anti-technology because they mistakenly believed that replacing labor with machines would kill jobs? No educated person believes this today. By staying competitive and welcoming technology, mechanization was integrated, creating new

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 24

THE PULSE

Boot Boortz?

Neal Boortz remains popular with Libertarians despite his pro-war position. Perhaps surprisingly, 78 percent of *LP News* readers who responded to this month's unscientific Pulse question — "Should Boortz be uninvited from his speaking engagement at the Libertarian National Convention in May?" — said to let him speak.

Another 16 percent said the talk radio host should be prevented from speaking, and 5 percent said to let him make the decision as to whether he still wants to speak, but to tell him what he can talk about if he decides to speak.

All told, 37 *LP News* readers responded, and Boortz's supporters outnumbered his detractors almost six to one: Only six said he should be dumped.

To be fair, many of those who said to let him speak also expressed discontent with some of what Boortz says, especially pertaining to the war in Iraq. For these, other issues were more important than his stance on foreign intervention.

Some said they don't know if he should have been invited to the convention — but since he already has an invitation, it's too late to honorably say, "No, thanks."

Others said his pro-war stance is mollified by his obvious support of most other libertarian positions; they can forgive him for his hawk status because he's "with us" on so many other issues.

But most said exactly what convention organizers have been saying all along: While Boortz may differ from a majority of Libertarians in his support of Bush's war in Iraq, he remains a figure whose appearance at the convention is sure to draw some who would otherwise not have attended, and who will spark discussion and interest in those who hear him.

And that's what selecting a speaker is all about, some said. The goal is to get people interested in showing up, not necessarily to select someone with whom every person in attendance can agree

Here's what some readers said:

■ Libertarianism is a philosophy. If we let the loudest segments of the party silence debate on the application of our philosophy, we become like the other two parties. Keep the debates alive: Let him speak.

—BOB BOOTH, Irvine, California

■ Boortz's support of an unprovoked war violates the only principle required for party membership.

—RICHARD KEST, San Jose, California

■ I don't know whether Neal Boortz is a real libertarian or not, but unless there is some rule that every speaker at the convention must agree with the Libertarian Party line, why not let him speak? As Libertarians, we do believe in freedom of speech, don't we?

—KEVIN ROLFE, Jacksonville, Florida

■ Let Boortz cheerlead his flavor of Republican authoritarianism on his own show. Save our convention.

—MIKE BOERSTE, North Augusta, South Carolina

■ Boortz is not a libertarian in any meaningful sense of the word. This is not about free speech but about whether the "party of principle" has any.

—RICK SPILMAN, Jersey City, New Jersey

■ The energy spent to withdraw Neal Boortz's invitation to speak at the 2004 LP Convention is decidedly counterproductive. Let the man be heard and thereby prove or disprove his Libertarian credentials to the delegates in attendance.

—BILL MURLEY, Ralston, Nebraska

■ I would let Neal Boortz speak at the Libertarian Party national convention, but I would invite Howard Dean to speak his opposing views on the war. You would have an interesting lively debate sure to get enormous media attention

—RONALD PAL, Sutton, Vermont

■ People who oppose the invitation of Neal Boortz to speak at the National Libertarian Party Convention seem to fit into one of three categories: Those who believe the anti-war issue trumps all else, those who believe no dissent regarding the platform is permissible, and those whose only knowledge of Mr. Boortz comes from the lies and half-truths spread by people in the first two groups.

—JOE MEADE, Pottstown, Pennsylvania

Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video
The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!
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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 23

■ Over the years I have heard Mr. Boortz say many things contrary to the Libertarian philosophy and maintain his view even after a caller rebuffs. I vote to uninvite, lest this misrepresentation continue.

—JEREMY LYNES, Atlanta, Georgia

■ Un-invite Boortz? Are you nuts? Might as well un-invite Ron Paul, too, because he's pro-life.

—JOHN HOLTON, Marietta, Georgia

■ Can you even imagine what it would have cost us to have this kind of nationwide advertising, which Mr. Boortz has done free of charge?

—SALLY A. HAYES, Gainesville, Florida

■ I think engaging Boortz in an open and friendly debate is the way to go. Who knows? He may be even persuaded to see the merits of the anti-war position, and could eventually take a more consistent Libertarian message to his radio audience. This will benefit everyone involved.

—BRIAN WILSON, Louisville, Kentucky

■ Other Conventions have witnessed outstanding speeches by other guests; I recall the ACLU's Nadine Strossen in 1996, who drew wave after wave of richly deserved ovations — yet she presumably favors taxation, government schools and gun control.

—JIM DAVIES, Newbury, New Hampshire

■ Neal Boortz is libertarian enough for any realistic politically active LP member. I agree with him about 90 percent of the time — about as often as I agree with our local LP members who have actually run for office.

—GEORGE F. WRIGHT, Meadville, Pennsylvania

June Question: What is our one issue?

In the 2000 presidential campaign, Harry Browne focused on three issues: Social Security, the War on Drugs and income taxes.

Looking at our current socio-political situation, should we continue focusing on these issues, or should we pick a different one?

Let's face it: The list of issues our candidates could address is endless, including immigration, abortion, the space program, racism, the federal deficit, the so-called War on Terror, cyber-snooping and the Patriot Act, among a multitude of others.

■ **QUESTION: If you could tell our presidential candidate to focus on one issue throughout the campaign, what would it be? What single issue is more important to you than anything else? Part 2: Is there one issue you would tell our candidate to avoid? If so, why? Please keep responses to 100 words, and give us only one issue to emphasize and one to avoid.**

■ **DEADLINE:** May 8, 2004.

May Question: Can art be libertarian?

Author Ayn Rand is a hero to many Libertarians, with her philosophy of objectivism and denouncement of collectivism.

Other authors—including Camille Paglia, Robert Heinlein, Terry Goodkind—have their adherents in libertarian circles, as well.

And there are musicians, as well. LP News recently reported that Queensryche leader Geoff Tate has libertarian leanings; blues guitarist Jimmie Vaughn is a libertarian and is slated to play at the LP national convention in Atlanta in May, and the list goes on.

Some visual artists — painters, sculptors and photographers — are libertarians, but would the work they produce be considered libertarian, as well? Should any artistic work produced by a libertarian artist automatically be considered libertarian in its own right?

Think hard, now: Can visual art be libertarian? If so, are there any artists producing such work for a wide audience?

■ **QUESTION: Consider your favorite artists, whether authors, musicians or visual artists: Who are the libertarians in the crowd? Give an example or two, explaining how the artist (or the work) is libertarian. In the future we may write more about your favored artists. Or if you think art cannot be libertarian, tell us why. Please keep responses to 100 words.**

■ **DEADLINE:** April 8, 2004.

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include your name and your city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.

■ **E-mail:** Editor@hq.LP.org. (Put "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ **Fax:** (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ **Mail:** Libertarian Party, Attn: The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

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jobs that are more productive because of capital investment.

Outsourcing jobs to India? I'm all for it. They'll be replaced by higher paying jobs and lower prices here. Go Bangalore!

—JEFF E. JARED
Kirkland, Washington

■ Ignorant or malicious?

I just read Mr. Reed's letter disagreeing with the LP News cartoon depicting George Bush's fleecing of Americans.

You're not one of those who would like to convince people that Mr. Bush is ignorant, are you? It's all economics. Mr. Bush's motivations are power and money, as are those of all politicians. Period.

I hope the LP gets more aggressive, not less.

—TOM PILITOWSKI
Port Charlotte, Florida

■ No respect for FSP

I felt the Free State Project was not given the respect it deserves in your February issue of the LP News ("The Top 10 Libertarian News Stories of 2003"). You wrote, "The jury is out on whether the FSP can succeed."

"How much impact will 20,000 libertarians really have?"

Hello? The LP as a whole has about 20,000 members, spread thinly across this nation, and yet we still have political victories all of the time!

Most local groups that achieve these victories are usually made up of 10-20 activists.

Yes, New Hampshire gets about 10,000-20,000 new immigrants every year.

But the FSP is bringing in 20,000 activists. The LP may have 20,000 members, but I assure you most are not activists.

If we are to achieve liberty in our lifetime, the Free State Project must succeed. If it cannot, freedom's chances in America are doomed.

I hope the LP will officially endorse the Free State Project.

—IAN BERNARD
Sarasota, Florida

■ Libertarian club

I believe the LP has the potential to rival the two major parties. We are the best organized third party. We can be a major sore spot in the sides of the Dems and Republicans.

Why, then, do we automatically concede the 2004 election to President Bush or the Democratic nominee? Why do we shrink back in our holes and cry foul over the Supreme Court's ruling on campaign finance reform and make an excuse that we can't win because we can't raise the money the "big boys" have?

I voted for President Bush in 2000, but I won't be voting for him in 2004. I'll be voting for [the LP] candidate. But I would like to do so with a little pride in our can-

didate. He needs to get out there with the attitude of a fighter. We need to be out there fighting, not just pontificating.

I joined the Libertarian Party, not the Libertarian Club.

—BARRY KAY
Greenville, South Carolina

■ Duck hunting

Attacking Democrats these days is like attacking Republicans. If you call one a tyrant, you might as well label the other as such, too. The Democrats and Republicans are birds of a feather.

Let's go duck hunting.

I'm a registered Republican who supported Bush in 2000.

But over the past few months Bush has really turned my stomach. He's creating a monstrous bureaucracy so fast the Democrats must be drooling with envy.

Bush is a socialist in every sense of the word. Calling him a "conservative" won't change his socialist stink.

I can no longer use fear of terrorism as a reason to cast my vote for Bush. What's the point in defending America if there is no liberty to defend?

Historically, I've always flirted with the Libertarians, but never quite leaped into their bed.

With the GOP, I must part company. It no longer satisfies my needs. We've had a long marriage.

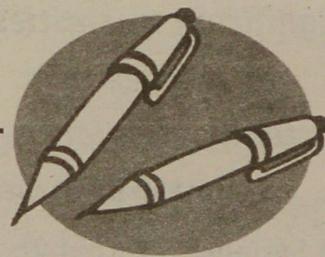
But now it's time to say, farewell. I'm ditching it for my mistress, the LP.

—JOHN STUDOWSKI
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

■ They buried us

I am concerned about the anti-American forces at work within the party, the voices that speak with forked tongues, proclaiming "liberty" while trying to sway votes to the Democrats.

The sole direction of the Democratic Party is to hand the country over to the United Nations, lock,



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stock and barrel.

When John F. Kennedy was in office, Nikita Krushchev said, "We will take you from the inside without firing a shot. The American people will fly the hammer and sickle, and they will hoist it themselves. We will bury you."

The Berlin wall came down because it was obsolete. Communism is not dead: It lives and breathes among us!

I am not the only Libertarian concerned. I do know, if we do not have the backbone to protect this country without hesitation from attack — both from inside and without — all of our economic studies and ideas mean nothing.

—K.A. "DUSTY" McDANIEL
Santa Fe, New Mexico

■ New member

I am rather new to the Libertarian Party. I have only received two editions of LP News but I have noticed a very disheartening trend in the pieces published in "The Mailbox." There seems to be a lot of internal fighting and bickering over various side issues amongst the membership.

It's extremely counterproductive to divert attention, time and resources from the true issues at hand.

I have been fighting the world for quite some time and I still have a lot more fight left in me. But take it from someone who knows: It is much easier (and more effective) to fight the world as a coordinated team than it is as an army of one. Please keep this in mind before you tell another member that they should leave the party because you don't agree with them on a given issue.

—KEITH W. KIMMEL
La Porte, Indiana

■ Immigration plank

The traditional libertarian support for liberal immigration and free trade flows naturally out of the self-ownership axiom, opposition to costly and coercive government bureaucracies, and an understanding of basic free market economics.

These issues are central to the libertarian program.

While not everyone in the party can be expected to embrace individual freedom 100% of the time, it is reasonable to expect that the party's platform does. The immigration and trade planks should not be changed.

Dissenting candidates are free to choose not to run on these planks, just as many LP candidates choose to avoid the drug legalization issue.

—PHILIP BLUMEL
Lake Worth, Florida

■ Fight for liberty

Thanks for the nice mention of our Fight For Liberty group for libertarian hawks. [Political News, January LP News.]

Generally, FFL doesn't favor foreign aid, but rather would have the

THE MAILBOX

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United States charge for military services — either from allies paying for military services, or from businesses paying for the restoration and protection of property rights in nationalized industries.

The illegality of drugs drives up the price and invites the participation of the more violent traffickers. Thus, the drug war provides a subsidy to terrorists.

We generally don't favor the U.S. having static checkpoints or occupying forces in Iraqi cities. We want most US/UK troops moved to less vulnerable positions in the desert.

—KEVIN BJORNSON
Seattle, Washington

Immigration again

I think the lack of consensus regarding immigration, about which Richard Fuerle wrote in the March 2004 edition of *LP News*, results from failure to recognize immigration as a symptom of more fundamental problems.

Most migrants are attracted to the United States because there are jobs here that American citizens won't perform, they are eligible for many free government benefits here, such as education, and they

are unable to survive in their countries of origin.

We libertarians should be able to agree that eliminating all the government benefits that attract immigrants and enable our fellow citizens to survive without working would go a long way toward giving our currently idle citizens an incentive to accept jobs they now reject.

It will also simultaneously reduce our nation's attractiveness to immigrants.

In short, by addressing root problems — of which immigration is but a symptom — we should then be able to agree once more on the libertarian principle that peaceful, self-supporting people ought to be able to cross borders freely.

—MICHAEL J. GONSIOR
Cody, Wyoming

Reality check

Libertarians (big or small "L"s) have to face the reality that our electoral successes in electing candidates will be minimal no matter what office we seek or what party we belong to.

That does not mean that we should not seek election, since an elected Libertarian to public office can get a lot of attention for our

movement's ideas.

The best strategy would be to copy our enemies, the Socialist Party. They elected very few people to office but got almost every one of their proposals enacted. I believe that the LP is an excellent vehicle for libertarian ideas, like the Socialist Party was a good vehicle for socialist proposals. But furthering ideas should be the only reason the LP exists.

—MIKE RENZULLI
Mesa, Arizona

Libertarian gray

[RE: Jonathan Trager letter, Feb. 2004 Mail Box]

Jonathan wrote, in part, "Although Mr. Boortz is a well-known Atlanta-based LP member who has spoken at past events, his relentless post-9/11 cheerleading for preemptive war, government surveillance, and the Bush administration show that he isn't a libertarian."

I'm a Libertarian for several reasons, one of which is the philosophy of not initiating force. I'm also a pragmatist that understands that the universe is not composed of only black and white but includes a myriad of shades of grays.

There are Republicans who support abortion while other Republicans are in opposition. Even with such a fundamental difference, both camps regard each other as Repub-

lican.

One group may be denigrated with the term RINO, but even that denigration implies that they are Republican.

During my 57 years, I have learned that there are viewpoints that differ from mine and often, they too are valid. Interesting: two opposing viewpoints and both are valid. I would never tell anyone because they disagree with me, they're out in left field; that because their viewpoint disagrees with mine, they are wrong for no other reason than that they disagree with my views.

It seems that as long as I agree with you, Mr. Jonathan Trager, I am a Libertarian.

But when I don't, you and you alone can define me as something other than a Libertarian. Thanks, Jon, for so informing me of that fact. In my view, you and others like you are what keep this party small and ineffectual.

—LARRY STONE
North Bend, Oregon

Value in space program

Because I am interested in science and space exploration, my eye was caught by the essay "Was the \$820 million invested in the mission to Mars wasted?" by Kenn Gividen [February 2004 *LP News*].

I don't know where Mr. Gividen is getting his figures or how he is

doing his math when he says that the Mars rover project is "one-tenth the price tag of the war in Iraq."

An \$830 million space program is less than one percent of the cost, even if you only consider the additional \$87 billion that the president asked for to continue the conquest of Iraq!

The Web site www.costofwar.com gives the amount already spent on the war in Iraq at over \$100 billion.

Gividen says that scientists know that Mars is very cold and dry, and that it once had an abundance of water, "so what's new to learn?" This remark is mind-boggling to anyone with any scientific curiosity.

Government funding may not be the ideal way to finance space exploration and research, but in my opinion, it is one of the last things that should be cut from the budget, not one of the first.

—KEVIN ROLFE
Jacksonville, Florida

Protected freedoms

Why do the mainstream USA media get bent out of shape regarding the First Amendment — "freedom of speech, or of the press" — and not understand, or ignore, the meaning of "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof?"

Where is "Separation of Church and State" in the U.S. Constitution? My copy of the U.S. Constitution reads: "Congress shall make no law...."

Nowhere does it prohibit the states, or anyone else for that matter, from establishing a religion. Additionally, the Ninth and 10th amendments specifically address the rights of the states: They [are those] powers not delegated to the US, nor prohibited to the States.

Apparently, freedoms of speech and press [are the only ones in which] the US media is interested. The heck with the rest of the amendment and the other nine amendments!

Thank you very much for your time and effort.

—WENCESLAO M. HEVR
Lawton, Oklahoma

Boycott Ds and Rs

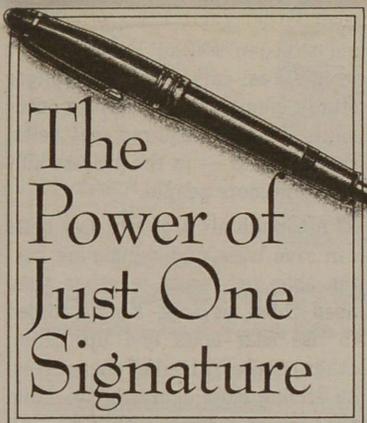
I am calling for all Libertarian Party members to boycott Republicans and Democrats in states where ballot access is made difficult and expensive. If your state requires petitioning for ballot access, resolve not to vote for either of the parties that benefits from unfair ballot access laws.

When contacted by anyone asking for your vote, tell them you will not cast a vote for them in any race until they reform the ballot access laws.

Vote Libertarian first. If there is no Libertarian in a race, vote for any other alternate party.

If there are no alternate parties, leave it alone. Other "third parties" can do this, too, so spread the word to them.

—WILLIAM PAYNE
Wichita Falls, Texas



The
Power of
Just One
Signature

Do you think our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

If so, you can help change that by joining the Libertarian Party! We're the only political party that is fighting — with 100% of our energy — to lower taxes, to reduce the size of government, and to defend the Bill of Rights. With your support — and your proud signature on this membership form — we can work harder than ever to build a powerful political force for freedom.

But we need your help to do it. Join us today!

Libertarian Party Membership!

YES! Sign me up today as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party!

I'll receive 12 monthly issues of *LP News*, and a membership card. I'd like to be a Libertarian Party member in the following category:

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- \$250 **Sponsoring Member**
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The Libertarian Party is the party of principle. To publicly affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

> **I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.**

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

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UPCOMING

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April 24, 2004

Connecticut LP Convention, The Colony Hotel, New Haven. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: vicechair@lpct.org.

April 24, 2004

New York LP Convention, Holiday Inn Martinique (Manhattan), New York City. Speakers include Gary Nolan (candidate, 2004 LP presidential nomination). For information, visit: www.ny.LP.org. Or e-mail Thomas Ruks: TRuksLP@yahoo.com. Or call: (516) SOS-GOVT.

April 30-May 2, 2004

South Carolina LP Convention, Sheraton Hotel & Conference Center, Columbia. Speakers include Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination), Michael Gilson-De Lemos (LNC Representative), Robert Butler (Libertyworks), Bea Jones (Hardeeville city councilor), and Chris Panos (political advisor). For information, visit: www.sc.lp.org. Or e-mail: events@sc.lp.org.

May 1, 2004

Washington State Convention, Doubletree Bellevue Hotel, Bellevue. Speakers scheduled include Libertarian presidential candidate Gary Nolan, Richard Winger (editor, Ballot Access News) and Richard Sanders, Washington state Supreme Court justice. For information, contact officemanager@lpws.org.

May 13-15, 2004

Freedom Fest 2004: "Where Free Minds Meet," Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Sponsored by The Young America's Foundation. Speakers include John Mackey (founder, Whole Foods), Charles Murray (author, *Human Accomplishment*), Harry Browne (1996 and 2002 LP presidential candidate), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), and Ron Paul (U.S. Representative, R-TX). For information, visit www.freedomfest.com or call: (800) USA-1776.

May 21-23, 2004

Colorado LP Convention, Rocky Mountain Park Holiday Inn, Estes Park. Speakers include Boston T. Party (author, *Hologram of Liberty*). For information, visit: <http://home.earthlink.net/~libertytool>.

May 27-31, 2004

Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention, Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers include U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), Dean Cameron (actor), James Gray (U.S. District judge), Neal Boortz (syndicated radio talk show host), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government), Michael C. Colley (retired U.S. Navy vice admiral), James Lark (past LP national chair), Richard Mack (anti-Brady Bill sheriff), David Nolan (Libertarian Party founder), Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), and Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate). Entertainers include blues musician Jimmie Vaughan. Questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail: convention@hq.lp.org.



■ David Nolan

June 11-13, 2004

New Mexico LP Convention, Best Western Mission Inn, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Speakers include author Vin Suprynowicz and Michael Badnarik, candidate for the LP presidential nomination. For information, call 505-378-8025 or e-mail lpncnm@zianet.com.

June 11-13, 2004

Texas LP Convention, College Station Hilton Hotel, College Station. Speakers TBA. For information, call Christopher Jagge at: (979) 695-9646. Or e-mail: c_jagge@email.msn.com.

July 21-26, 2004

ISIL's 23rd World Conference, Novotel Rotorua, New Zealand. Sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty & the Institute for Liberal Values. Speakers include Elbegdorj Tsakhia (former prime minister, Mongolia), Michael Cloud (creator, The Art of Political Persuasion), and Rodney Hide (member, New Zealand Parliament). For information, visit: www.ISIL.org. E-mail: isil@ISIL.org. Call: (707) 746-8796.

Air bags: Legislated killers?

Continued from Page 22
of — the safety devices.

In 1998, an Ohio man was actually sentenced to jail time because his 2-month-old son was killed by an air bag in his pickup truck. Manufacturer's literature warned that the air bag should be disabled if a child was in a car seat on the passenger side. Dwight Childs didn't do so, and he was sent to jail for negligence — jailed for not disconnecting a government-mandated device.

Some have suggested that all politicians who favor air bag laws should be sentenced to jail for negligence in the deaths of those who have died due to the decision.

In 1999, the NHTSA issued a statement saying that children should always be seated in the back seats of cars, away from airbags, unless the manufacturer determined that the devices pose "no significant risk to children."

They admit that airbags are dangerous, that they can kill, yet they continue stressing the importance of these devices of death.

The federal DOT even reported that, in air bag killings, "proximity to the air bag has been the issue in nearly every death."

Really? No kidding.

Is a recall in order?

Every year, hundreds of items are recalled by manufacturers and distributors, when it is determined that something went wrong with the item.

For example, a toy manufacturer was recently pressured by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to recall hundreds of thousands of baby doll tea sets that included a piece that small children could choke on.

No children had been injured or killed by the items; it seems the mere possibility of harm was enough to get the toys pulled off the market.

Doubtless, many of the owners of the recalled items did not return them, believing that the chance of choking was very slight.

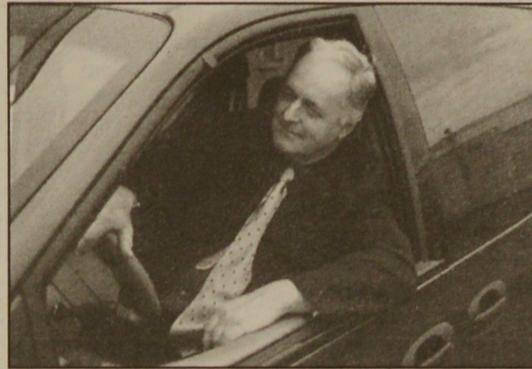
And they were fully in their rights to do so: If you are willing to ignore warnings, you should have that right.

The "Women's Rights & Abortion" plank dodges the libertarian issue: Do preborn humans have rights? But in effect, it supports the government's two-tiered legal policy of a superior class of human beings with rights and an inferior class that does not count. **Isn't it time to delete this plank?**

Doris Gordon, MDLP,
301-460-4141, www.L4L.org,
libertarian@erols.com

Public safety interest

In 1995, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, 16.8 percent of all public school students reported that they knew there were guns in their schools. According to a study by George Washington University's Hamilton Fish Institute on School and Community Violence, approximately 80,000 high school



with a properly adjusted, functional airbag and seat belt, or injury from the bag itself.

Some will protest that everyone's vehicle, health and life insurance rates will go up, to compensate for the deaths, injuries and accidents that are sure to follow when safety belts and air bags are no longer required.

But insurance companies routinely charge more to cover people who engage in high-risk activities, such as mountain climbing, motorcycling and hang-gliding — or even smoking.

If insurance was only available from private companies — with health insurance not provided at taxpayers' expense — there would be a simple private sector solution to this problem. If insurance companies

find that people who don't wear seat belts cost them more money, they could charge those people more for insurance coverage.

Let people pay for the privilege of making a personal choice, instead of criminalizing them under an ineffective government mandate.

Conclusion

■ By insisting that vehicles be lighter, to save fuel, our government began killing thousands of people, as cars were no longer sturdy enough to protect the occupants. So they required seat belts, then air bags — in the process killing even more people.

■ Although air bags and seat belts can save lives, individuals are better able to decide whether they need these devices. People forced to use seat belts end up killing other people instead of themselves, by driving more aggressively, while air bags actively kill children and adults who would otherwise have been safe.

■ Private insurance companies are much more qualified than politicians to determine what behaviors and activities are high risk — whether not wearing a seat belt or not having air bags will cost them more money. They already assign insurance premiums on a host of other factors that don't cause other people's insurance bills to go up: Let them do the same in this instance.

■ Instead of killing people every year through negligent approval of air bag laws, American bureaucracy could offer people a choice of risks, save millions of dollars instead of spending it on "Click it or Ticket" campaigns, and either allow taxpayers to keep some of that money or use it to fight actual crime.

Americans no longer need to function as crash-test dummies. It's been proven that air bags are dangerous. Now let us make the decision of whether or not to accept that danger.

seniors carry guns to public schools every month.

Even with all those guns at school, there were only three school-related shooting deaths last year, and only five the year before, according to the National School Safety and Security Services office Web site. In contrast, air bags have killed seven children per year since the late 1980s. Air bags kill more children per year than guns in schools do.

Does this mean that it's safe to send eight-year-old kids to school with handguns? No one is even suggesting such a thing, because the government school officials would blow their lids.

Maybe it's time to start locking airbags in safety boxes, registering them with the government and ensuring that they are incapable of going off unexpectedly. We need a "zero-tolerance policy" for air bags.

Solutions

People should be allowed to use only seat belts if they want. Car manufacturers shouldn't be forced to install air bags. Politicians could even admit they didn't know what they were doing, and take themselves completely out of the automotive safety business.

We should be given the choice of whether or not to participate in the air bag and safety belt program, to be able to tell the car dealer, "No, I don't want the air bag, so remove it and deduct \$1,000 (or more) from the price."

Some people are convinced that air bags offer desirable benefits without negative impact, and they should be able to purchase one as optional equipment on a vehicle — like four-wheel drive or a "sports package."

No one is saying these devices are inherently evil, or a waste of materials, money and effort. But they are dangerous, and people should be allowed to decide which danger they prefer to face: injury in an accident, which may occur even

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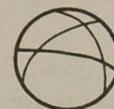
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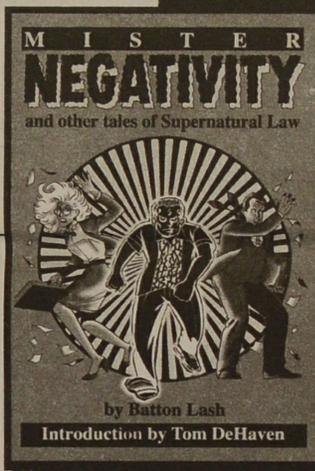
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UPCOMING

■ **April 2, 2004**

South Carolina LP, fundraising dinner, featuring U.S. Rep. Ron Paul, R-TX. For information, call (803) 657-3442, visit www.sc.lp.org, or e-mail events@sc.lp.org.

■ **April 3-4, 2004**

Maryland LP Convention, at Vitali's Restaurant and Pub. Speakers and workshops TBA. For information, contact Chip Spangler at chip4lib@yahoo.com, or call 301-346-2361.

■ **April 3-4, 2004**

Tennessee LP Convention, the Hilton Garden Inn, 311 Chestnut St., Chattanooga. Workshops and committee meetings April 4. Speakers to include Sharon Harris of Advocates for Self Government; Gary Nolan, candidate for the LP presidential nomination; Tamara Millay, candidate for the LP vice presidential nomination. For more information, e-mail state chair Ray Ledford at chair@lptn.net; Bill Bolen at valley.coordinator@lptn.net; or visit www.lptn.net.



■ Millay

■ **April 3, 2004**

Minnesota LP Convention, Coon Rapids Convention Center, Coon Rapids. Speakers include Secretary of State Mary Kiffmeyer; Dave Strom of the Taxpayers' League of Minnesota; Tom Trecker, National Motorists Association; homeschool teacher Karla Rolf; Dan and Karen Mathias; and comedian Tim Slagle. For more information, call 612-229-6550 or go to www.lpmn.org.

■ **April 17, 2004**

Vermont LP Convention, bi-annual convention, in Montpelier, VT. For more information e-mail chair@vtlp.org or visit <http://www.vtvp.us>.

■ **April 23-25, 2004**

North Carolina LP Convention, Sheraton Imperial Hotel, in Durham's Research Triangle Park. Speakers include Lee County Commissioner Chad Adams, Raleigh talk show host Jerry Agar (WPTF 680 AM), and economist, scholar and swing dancer Paul Cwik. Register on-line through April 9, at www.lpnc.org/convention. "We'll show you the spot where John Ashcroft spoke when he came to the Triangle to defend his precious Patriot Act last year. Come help restore the hotel's ideological karma!" More info: contact LPNC convention committee chair Rachel Mills, convention@lpnc.org.

■ **April 23-25, 2004**

Indiana State LP Convention, Radisson Hotel on Ohio Street, downtown Indianapolis. Speakers include Michael Cloud and other Libertarian stars. Costume Ball Saturday night, including annual Light of Liberty award presentation. For more information, contact Brad Klopfenstein at 317-920-1994; online at www.lpin.org; or e-mail lpinhq@lpin.org.



■ Cloud

■ **April 23-25, 2004**

Ohio LP Convention, Clarion Hotel and Suites, 5901 Pfeiffer Road and I-71, Cincinnati. Candidate school with Robert Butler; speakers to include Carla Howell, Doug Bandow, John Storey, Howard Woolridge, and Dr. Eric Schansberg. For more info, visit website www.lpo.org/StateConventions/Schedule.shtml; e-mail Steve Schulte, srschult@iac.net; or call 513-923-4299.



■ Howell

■ **April 24, 2004**

Alaska LP Convention, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage. Speakers TBA. For information, call (907) 566-1235, visit www.ak.lp.org, or e-mail state LP chair Scott Kohlhaas, skohlhaas@alaska.net. For more Upcoming Events, see page 26

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FIRST WORD



"The libertarian philosophy has been around from the time God gave Moses the 10 Commandments telling the world that it is wrong to lie, steal and cheat. If every individual followed the libertarian philosophy of not initiating force on others, there would indeed truly be world peace."

—HOWARD J. BLITZ, *The Yuma [Arizona] Sun*, January 7, 2004

"My disillusionment with the two major parties has become complete. ... The only hope seems to be in the Libertarian Party, last refuge of people who think big spending, big tax bills and nanny government were not what the founders had in mind when they invented this republic."

—WARREN BLUHM, *Green Bay (Wisconsin) News-Chronicle*, February 11, 2004