

LP reaches milestone

200 members hold public office

When Dana Snowman won a spot on the Alton School Board in Maine, he probably didn't know that he had just helped the Libertarian Party reach an important milestone: 200 Libertarians serving in public office.

But party officials understood the significance of Snowman's victory.

"Write down the date July 9th, because on that day the Libertarian Party reached 200 officeholders for the first time in its history," the party's National Director Perry Willis said. "It's a great day for the party."

It also was a day that was a long time coming, added Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

"It took more than two decades—from 1971 to 1994—for the Libertarian Party to reach a point where we consis-

tently had at least 100 officeholders," he said. "The fact that we were able to add another 100 officeholders in less than three years is vivid evidence of the party's growing success."

And Maine LP State Chair Richard Eaton said Snowman's victory was another example of "average Libertarians doing extraordinary things in their communities to expand our liberties"—and further proof that the LP "can make a difference" in the political landscape.

"I was excited to learn that Dana Snowman was elected to the Alton School Board," he said. "He took the initiative upon himself to run for office and told me after he won. What a pleasant surprise for him to be the 200th Libertarian in office."

Snowman was one of 15 names from 12 states added to the list of elected or appointed Libertarians over the last two months—pushing the party's officeholders past the see **200 in office** on page 6

LP grabbing attention in off-year, local elections

Although 1997 is considered an off-year for elections, Libertarian Party candidates are active and grabbing headlines in a number of races.

In Philadelphia, Leon Williams has been selected as the LP's candidate for district attorney. Williams is an attorney and a leading African-American advocate for school reform. He has been a frequent guest on black-oriented talk radio and is hoping to gain support from minority voters in the race that has gained national attention.

Earlier this year, the current Democratic district attorney released a 10-year-old video tape of her Republican challenger urging colleagues to avoid picking poor blacks for juries. While the Republican drew criticism for the remarks, the incumbent DA also came under fire, especially from blacks who claim too many blacks are struck from juries.

Many Philadelphia voters have been calling for an alternative candidate to come forward, and Williams is gaining widespread support and interest for taking up this role. He is the first African-American to seek the district attorney's seat since 1985.

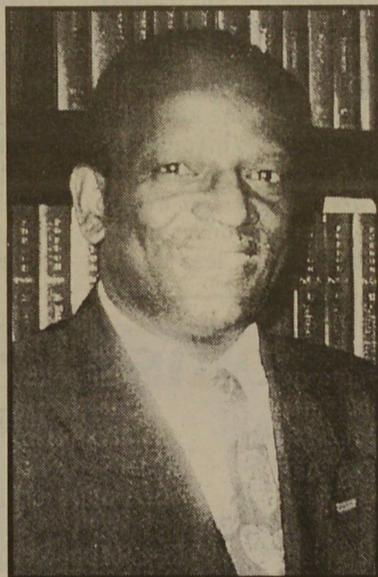
"Business as usual has gotten us into this mess, so why should we settle for business-as-usual politicians to get us out of this mess," Williams said.

"I will take creative, innovative approaches to the problems that defy conventional solutions," he said.

Williams has a master of science degree in educational psychology from Temple University and a juris doctorate from Widener University Law School. He also is a Vietnam veteran.

For more information, write Williams for DA, 327 South 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19107.

In Toledo, OH, four Libertarians, led by mayoral candidate Dave Domanski, have announced their candidacies for the city's primary election on Sept. 9. Although the races are officially non-partisan, *The Toledo Blade* carried the headline, "4 Libertarians seek Toledo offices."



Leon Williams

see **Candidates** on page 6

Libertarian Party NEWS



August 1997

The Party of Principle

VOLUME 12 • NUMBER 8

NEWS changes

Following the resignation of Randy Langhenry as editor of LP NEWS, there will be some changes in the newspaper.

Effective immediately, LP NEWS will move into the Libertarian Party's national office in Washington, DC. This will remain in effect until the Libertarian National Committee makes a decision about the newspaper's long-term direction. For the time being, LP Director of Communications Bill Winter will serve as Acting Editor.

The new address for LP NEWS is:

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.
ATTN: LP NEWS
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037

Please send all story suggestions, press releases, letters to the editor, information about upcoming events, affiliate news, and campaign news to that address, to the attention of Bill Winter. Or, send via fax to: 202-333-0072. Or e-mail to <73163.3063@CompuServe.com>.

Please call for editorial deadlines: 202-333-0008, Ext. 232.

Questions about LP NEWS advertising should be directed to Tiffany Rodney at that same address, or call her at 202-333-0008, Ext. 232.

E-mail: <110112.301@CompuServe.com>.

The deadline for ads will remain the same: The first of the month before each issue's publication date. So, the advertising deadline for the September issue is Aug. 1.

Alabama LP halts state fingerprinting

The Libertarian Party of Alabama scored a major victory last month in leading a fight to stop the fingerprinting of all persons in the state who apply for a state driver's license.

When the LP got wind of the fact that the State Department of Public Safety was attempting to enact a "promulgated rule" requiring this fingerprinting, the party sprang into action. A promulgated rule is the process whereby a governmental agency is given authority to define the details of a general law. Usually this process is used to deal with administrative details, but sometimes the process is used to enact laws that the legislature doesn't want to deal with.

"Our state party was really in the lead as far as getting the word out and making this an issue," Alabama LP State Chair Steve Dow said.

LP activist Mike Beasley used e-mail and the

Internet to spread the word about the fingerprinting proposal, and the Alabama "Fight the Fingerprint" coalition was formed. Led by the state LP and the state Taxpayers Party, the coalition brought in members of other groups including the Gun Owners of America, Alabama Family Alliance, American Civil Liberties Union, Christian Coalition of Alabama, and others.

Following a rally by the coalition in early July, the Department of Public Safety announced that it would no longer consider requiring fingerprinting as part of the state's driver's license system.

"It is clear that this driver licensing feature has failed to gain the support of Alabamians, whom the system is designed to serve," Public Safety Director L.N. Hagan was quoted as saying.

"This is a great victory for freedom and it is a great victory for the Libertarian Party and for all of

the 'Fight the Fingerprint' coalition," Jim Albea, another of the LP activists, said.

Along with defeating the proposal, the Libertarian Party received a great deal of media attention—and even media support—on this issue. *The Huntsville Times* published an editorial opposing the fingerprinting plan.

Albea expressed the LP's concern over the proposal by saying, "On the surface it would be like you are just showing your license. But everywhere you go you could be tracked. From banks to convenience stores, if you have to show your driver's license and get your finger scanned, the government will know where you have been."

"Georgia and a few other states already have laws requiring fingerprints. Other states should be on the lookout because in many cases the state agencies try to slip it through quietly," Dow said.

How to: Lobby a ballot access bill

By MARK TUNIEWICZ

If you haven't lived through a scenario similar to this yet, I'm sure you will soon.

You learn that a bill has been introduced that will hugely increase the number of signatures to get Libertarians on the ballot in your state. The prospect is daunting, as you realize that you have an insufficient activist base to accomplish this on a volunteer basis, and a paid petition effort is not an option. *What do you do?*

Begin by insuring that, just as you have a newsletter editor, you have a person or people willing to commit their time to simply *monitor proposed laws* so that you are aware of them early enough to affect the process.

It's easy to get a summary of bills being introduced by contacting your secretary of state's office—you may have to get a fresh list more than once per session. Inquire as to on-line access to this information as well. Get a copy of your state's election laws, and inquire as to which House and Senate committees have jurisdiction over them.

In reviewing summaries of proposed laws, watch for obvious things such as increases in petition signature or registered voter requirements, or bills which change the definition of a ballot qualified political party. Once you've identified bills of interest, get copies of the full text of the proposed legislation and review them with a copy of the election laws at hand so you can see exactly what changes are being proposed.

Once you've found *the* bill, it's time to develop your strategy.

What arguments can you and your membership use? My favorite is that *to the extent ballot access is easier, it opens up the political process to more people*. More parties on the ballot bring more voters to the polls, many of whom would otherwise be disenfranchised and not vote. You can develop other arguments as well, but most politicians find it difficult to argue *against* something that will increase ballot box turnout. Make it clear that this is not just a Libertarian thing—we support open ballot access for all parties.

Now, get the word out to your members. Start by covering the legislation in your state party newsletter, detailing the offensive provisions and the effect it will have on your ability to run candidates and grow as a political force. In the same issue, provide a list of the House or Senate committee members who will be evaluating the bill, including contact information. *Ask your members to contact all committee members.*

Members should telephone the committee member, referring to the bill number and inquiring as to their familiarity with it (if they don't know the bill, describe it briefly). In a pleasant and friendly manner, express your opinion, using the key arguments that you've provided to members in the newsletter—a *clear and consistent message is what we are trying to get across*. Unless they initiate a longer conversation, your phone call should take less than 5

minutes, and ideally should be followed up with a thank-you note in the mail to reinforce the points you made on the phone.

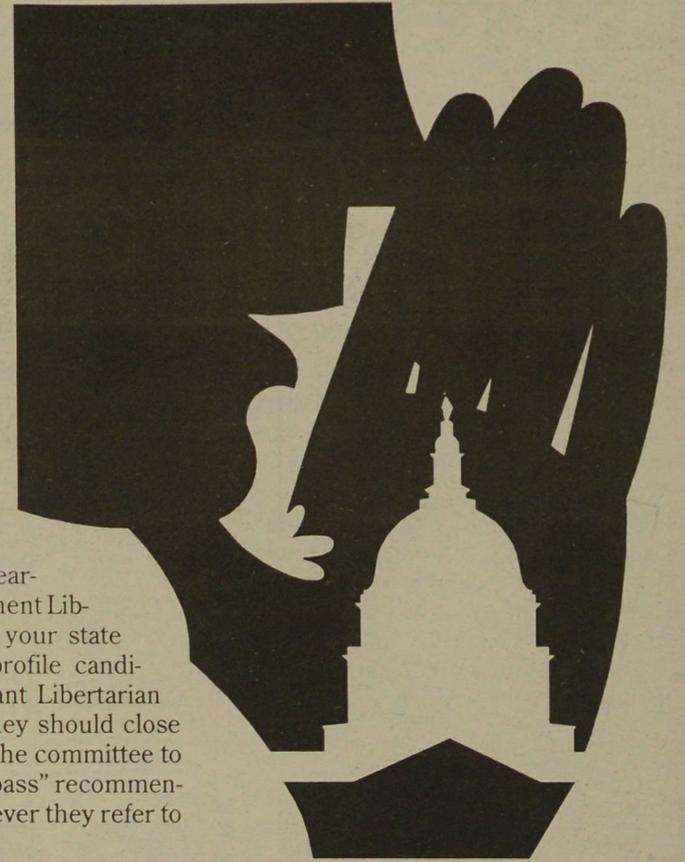
The committee will likely hold at least one hearing, and your goal is to make sure your phone lobbying is done before hearings begin. Recruit prominent Libertarians to testify (e.g., your state chair or a recent high-profile candidate), as well as significant Libertarian public officeholders. They should close their testimonies asking the committee to vote for an "ought not to pass" recommendation on the bill, or however they refer to killing a bill in your state.

The bottom line: *You want to stop the bill during the committee process*, rather than after it's passed the committee and gone to the full House or Senate where the effort needed to lobby it will be much greater. Follow up with the committee chair to see where the process goes after the hearing—often it's to a smaller subcommittee, which may recommend changes or concur with your lobbying effort. Continue to update your membership, giving new contact information and arguments where needed.

Other resources include the use of personal relationships with legislators, e-mail to expedite getting the word out, and press releases to support your position. And you

may have to adapt this process to change the bill rather than kill it, depending on the circumstances. But get started today by monitoring bills closely and involving your membership in a grassroots lobbying effort.

As LPNH chairman, Mark Tuniewicz led successful lobbying efforts affecting several bills during the 1996-97 legislative session. He recently relocated to Michigan and serves on the Libertarian National Committee.



Libertarian Party NEWS

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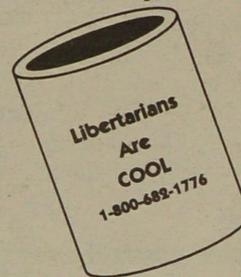
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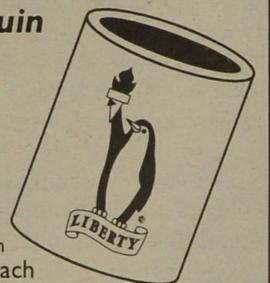
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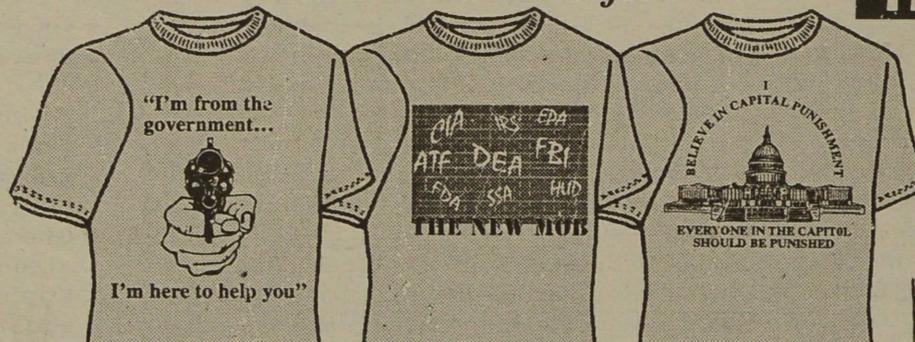
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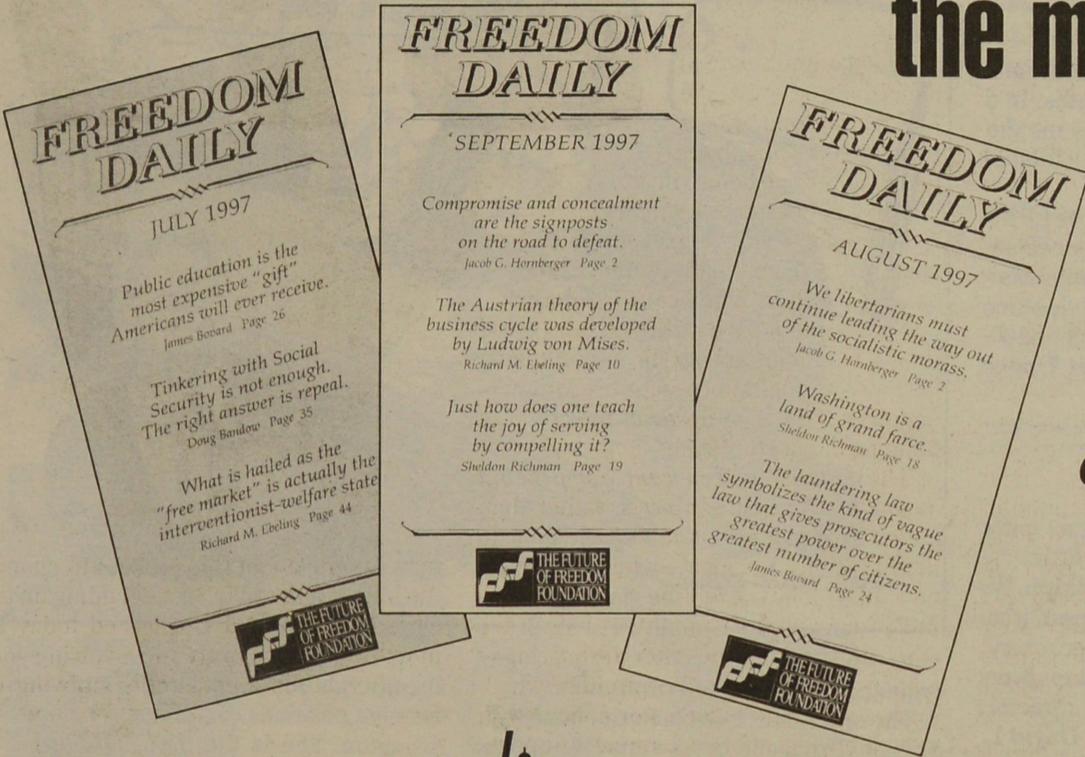
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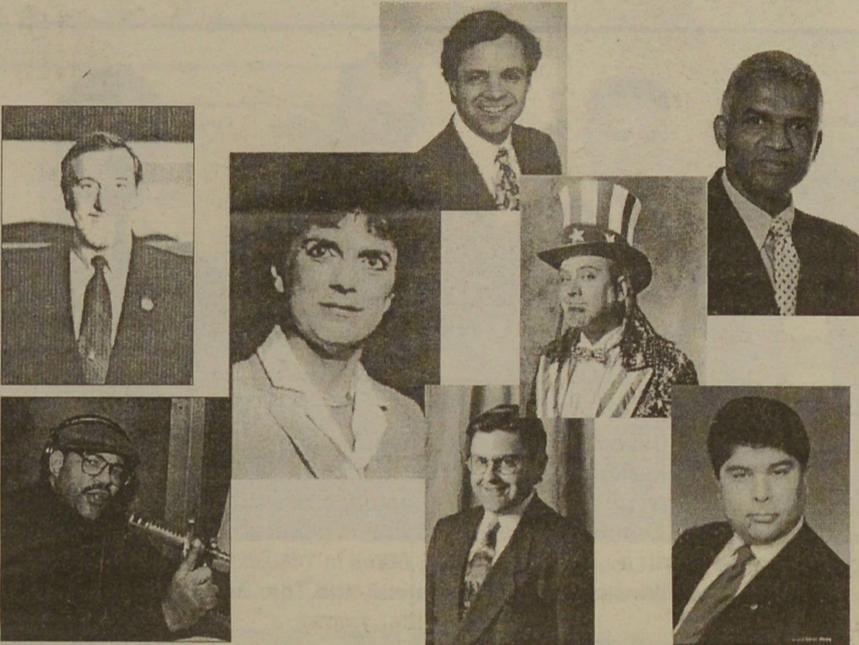
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Affiliates

continued from page 4
tions.

Source: affiliate officer

Wisconsin

The state party will staff a booth at the State Fair in West Allis from Aug. 1-10. This will be the party's fourth consecutive year with an exhibit at the fair.

"This year we have our best opportunity

yet to recruit new members and increase awareness of our party," said **Bob Collison**, exhibit organizer.

"Last year's booth was a tremendous success, attracting thousands of people with our balloon giveaway and our electronic Nolan Chart," Collison said. "The increase in enthusiasm of the crowds from 1994 to 1996 was dramatic."

Source: affiliate newsletter

200 in office

continued from page 1
200 mark.

Other new Libertarians in office include:

- California: Bruce Coe was appointed to the Kittitas County Planning Commission.

- Florida: Wayne Padgette and Pam Straerker were appointed to the Ochlockonee River Soil and Water Conservation Board.

- Hawaii: State Chair Dick Rowland and Patt R. Spencer were elected to Neighborhood Boards in Honolulu. Both started their two-year, non-partisan terms in late May.

- Illinois: New LP member John Jaugilas is serving as a trustee in the Village of Lombard.

- New Hampshire: Jim McIntosh was elected to the Lisbon Regional School Board, and Gene Donohue was elected to a non-partisan office on the Marlborough Recreation Committee. They became the 27th and 28th Libertarians in public office in New Hampshire—more than any other state.

- Alabama: Rod Templeton is now serving on the Lincoln City Council.

- Ohio: Charles Byrne won election to a four-year term on the State School Board, District 11, with 52 percent of the vote.

- Oregon: In May, Jon Zimmer was elected to a two-year, non-partisan spot on the Advisory Committee for the North Clackamas School District.

- South Carolina: Bill Woolsey won a seat on the Charleston County Zoning Commission.

- Washington: David Swann was elected to the White Salmon City Council. He became the 34th Libertarian serving on a city or town council (or equivalent position).

- Wisconsin: Arthur J. Risser II was appointed to a non-partisan position on the Watertown Airport Commission. He will serve until July 1998, and already is planning a bid for City Council that year.

In all, the number of Libertarians in office has jumped by 163 percent since July 1993, when the total stood at only 76 officeholders.

And this rapid growth of Libertarians in office, Dasbach said, illustrates once again the importance of the party's membership growth strategy.

"At the start of 1994, we had just under 10,000 members and just under 100 officeholders," he said. "Membership now stands at over 23,000—and we've got 200 officeholders. This demonstrates how important membership is to getting more Libertarians elected or appointed to public office."

What's next for the Libertarian Party?

"Well, 200 officeholders is great," Dasbach said. "Now it's on to 300."

Candidates

continued from page 1

Along with Domanski, three Libertarians—Don Jaynes, Tom Berkebile, and Thad Wineinger—are running for City Council seats.

Domanski gathered more than 1,100 signatures to qualify for the primary election, which will likely feature four or five candidates. The two with the highest votes in the primary will face off in the general election.

Domanski, 35, is a line worker at Chrysler Corporation's Jeep plant and has been active in the Libertarian Party since only January, when a friend suggested he should run for mayor and invited him to a local LP meeting. Domanski also is a radio talk show host on "Saturday Morning Live," a

three-hour show airing every Saturday morning on WCWA - 1230 AM.

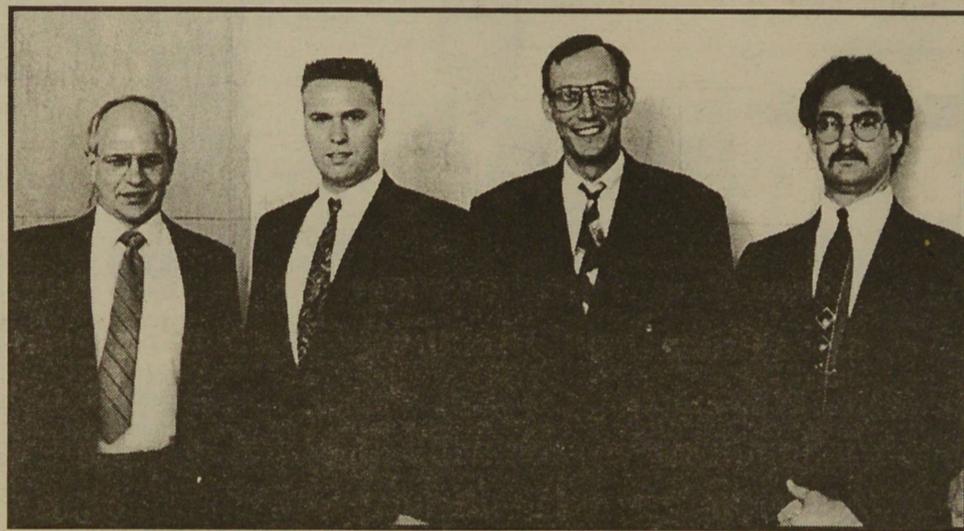
The Toledo Libertarians are running on the issue that the city is wasting taxpayers' money and they are calling for a strict audit trail of municipal expenses.

"We're tired of being raped by professional politicians," Domanski said. "There has to be some accountability for what they do, and as yet, we have not seen it."

Domanski said the current mayor "is an embarrassment to the city," and Domanski expects also to focus on the mayor's behavior.

Domanski hopes to raise \$15,000 for his campaign and will be hosting a pig roast as the major fund-raising effort.

For more information, call 419-472-5999.



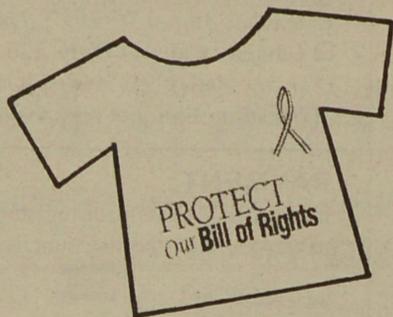
TOLEDO CANDIDATES - Libertarians seeking office in Toledo, OH, are, from left to right, Don Jaynes, Thad Wineinger, Dave Domanski, and Tom Berkebile.

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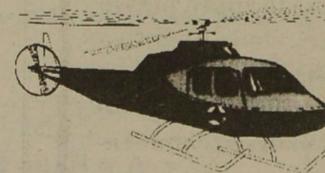
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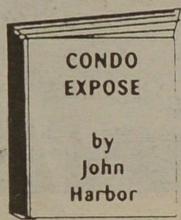
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Over here

Europeans seek political know-how from LP

Where do small political parties from fledgling Eastern European democracies go when they need a quick course in political success?

To the Libertarian Party.

In the past month, delegations from two former Soviet-occupied countries visited Libertarian Party headquarters in Washington, DC, to learn first-hand how small political parties can compete—and even thrive—against larger, more established political opponents.

A 10-person delegation from Bosnia-Herzegovina toured the party's national headquarters in the Watergate Office Building on June 24, and a five-person delegation from the Republic of Georgia followed eight days later.

Both groups were "composed of leaders from opposition parties that are struggling to maintain a voice in their nation's politics," according to Kate Allen of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, which arranged the visit.

"It was clear that they held American political parties in high esteem and were looking to us as a model," said LP Deputy Communications Director George Getz, who gave an hour-long "how-to" presentation to the Bosnia-Herzegovina group.

That delegation visited the LP to learn American third-party methods for building political support, recruiting members, raising money, and gaining media exposure—an area of special expertise for Getz.

"I told them the challenge we have getting our message out is that we are relatively unimportant to the media," said Getz, who writes press releases and schedules radio interviews for the LP. "Therefore, we have to try harder. I discussed our press release strategy, and also how we use the party's 800-number to recruit new members once we get on radio shows."

Getz said the delegation had numerous

other questions, including: Where do you get your money? How much money did you spend on your presidential campaign? How would you describe a typical Libertarian? And how many state ballots were you on?

"They seemed impressed that we were on all 50 state ballots," said Getz. "And they seemed shocked when I said that it's now easier for a new party to get on the ballot in Russia than here."

But despite all the LP's political success that he could point to, Getz said one fact—more than any other—seemed to awe the visitors: "They seemed especially impressed that Clint Eastwood identifies himself as a libertarian. And they all knew who Clint Eastwood is!"

The Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation included representatives from eight small parties and political groups, including the Social Democratic Party, the Liberal Party, the Republican Party, and the Union of Bosnian Social Democrats.

The following week, the delegation from the Republic of Georgia seemed to have a slightly different focus, said LP Affiliate Services Manager Daniel Smith, who spoke to that group.

"They were in the USA to learn about party-building activities and third-party politics—but seemed most interested in discussing political philosophy and foreign policy," he said.

Smith said he started his presentation by giving a brief outline of third-party politics in America.

"I talked of how the Socialists had much of their agenda enacted [in the 1930s] without getting large numbers of people elected to high office," he said. "I pointed out the Libertarian Party's goal is to get people elected to office rather than count on the two older parties to implement our agenda."

But when he started to explain the LP's political philosophy, the discussion veered off course—and turned into a friendly but vigorous debate.

"Using the Nolan chart, I explained how



STATE VISIT - LP Deputy Communications Director George Getz (left) shakes hands with Amila Ferizovic, a member of the Republican Party of Bosnia-Herzegovina, one of eight foreign political parties that visited the party's national office on June 24. "I was pleasantly surprised that everyone in the group was so cordial and inquisitive," Getz said.

the Left/Right political spectrum did not work for us. From this point forward the conversation concentrated on the philosophical angle. We did not speak much about party building!" he said.

"The participants seemed to be most interested in the LP position on foreign policy. They also seemed to appreciate our ideas but could not get over the hump [of their belief in big government]. I fear it had much to do with years of political oppression and indoctrination under the boot-heel of the Soviet state."

The Georgians' pro-government sentiments also might have been explained by their political affiliations, which included the Black Sea Assembly of Left-Center Parties and the Socialist Party of Georgia.

Following their visit to the LP's national office, the Bosnia-Herzegovina group also met with representatives of the Libertarian Party of New Jersey, where they focused on state-level activities.

"Our situations are not dissimilar," said LPNJ State Chair Len Flynn, who attended that meeting. "Libertarians know what it's like to be kept on the outside of the political process [by] laws that stack the deck against alternative political parties."

The discussion in New Jersey centered on local elections, developing local party support, and the state's gubernatorial race. With some "near-successes in local elections" to point to, Flynn said NJ Libertarians shared "what we have learned with the Bosnian delegation."

LP urges nationwide boycott of government's 'official' racial categories

The Libertarian Party has launched a national campaign to abolish the government's system of racial classifications and is urging Americans to refuse to disclose their race on census forms in the year 2000.

"For 20 long years, the U.S. government has demeaned every American by pigeonholing us according to the color of our skin," the party's National Chair, Steve Dasbach, said. "In three years, when the census-takers ask about our race, we hope Americans will stand up and say: No more. Tell these fill-in-the-blank bureaucrats that your race is none of the government's business."

The party launched the campaign when the federal government, after a three-year study, decided not to abolish its five official racial classifications. Instead, government

bureaucrats said multi-racial Americans should check several boxes, such as black and white, on the 2000 census form.

The goals of the Libertarian Party's "Say No to Racial Classifications" campaign are to build public awareness of how politicians exploit racial classifications to further divide the nation along racial grounds, and to eliminate them from all government forms, Dasbach said.

"We're telling Americans: Stop and think before you check that box," Dasbach said. "If millions of Americans withheld their racial data from the government, the politicians' framework for American Apartheid would crash to the ground."

To spread the word, the party is enlisting the support of a network of activists and registered voters across the country and is mounting a nationwide media blitz.

The government's current five "official" racial categories, created by the Office of Management and Budget in 1977, are white, black, American Indian/Eskimo, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic. Federal agencies use the classifications to bestow benefits such as jobs, low-interest loans, and college scholarships.

"Sadly, the government of a nation dedicated to liberty and equality under the law is using arbitrary racial characteristics as a wedge to pry Americans further apart," Dasbach said.

Dasbach encouraged American politicians to learn from other nations with more progressive racial policies—such as South Africa.

"A decade ago, the U.S. government imposed trade sanctions to pressure the South African government to repeal its sys-

tem of racial classification called Apartheid," he said. "Wouldn't it be ironic if South Africa, which has since repudiated government-sponsored racial discrimination, now imposed sanctions against the United States for the same reason?"

Fortunately, if the Libertarian Party's campaign is successful, American politicians won't have to rely on a foreign government to teach them racial tolerance, Dasbach said.

"Every single American can strike a blow for a colorblind society by saying 'no' to the census-takers and 'no' to racial classifications," Dasbach said. "We're all Americans—what else does the government need to know?"

These are excerpts from a news release issued by the national Libertarian Party in July.

NEW ENGLAND
June 7 & 8, 1997
Andover, MA

MID-ATLANTIC
June 28 & 29, 1997
Falls Church, VA

MID-WEST
July 19 & 20, 1997
Indianapolis, IN

MID-AMERICA
September 6 & 7, 1997
Kansas City, MO

SOUTHWEST
September 27 & 28, 1997
Austin, Texas

WEST COAST
October 18 & 19, 1997
Northern Los Angeles

ROCKY MNTS
November 8 & 9, 1997
Denver, Colorado

THE SOUTH
January 10 & 11, 1998
Atlanta, Georgia

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- ★ *How to write press releases that intrigue the media?*
- ★ *Ten tips to create a better LP newsletter?*
- ★ *How to give persuasive speeches to civic groups — or high school classes?*
- ★ *What to say — and what not to say — in radio or TV interviews?*
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Q What can Libertarians learn at Success '97?
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Q Who can attend Success '97?
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Q Who is conducting these workshops?
The LP's most experienced activists — Steve Dasbach, national LP Chairman; Perry Willis, the party's National Director; Bill Winter, LP Communications Director & former State Chair of the hugely successful New Hampshire LP; Ron Crickenger, the party's Political Director; Barbara Goushaw, campaign manager for Jon Coon's record-setting campaigns; and Michael Cloud, one of the LP's all-time champion fundraisers.

Q What are the seminars like?
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specific projects or activities. And, depending on your interest, you can sign up for either party-building seminars or campaign workshops.

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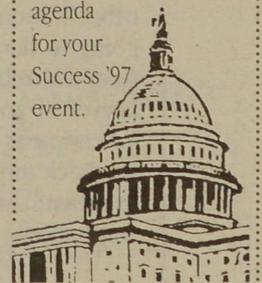
calls. You'll get fundraising tips: Techniques that really work. And you'll learn how to prepare and deliver speeches for groups and college classes. And more!

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Talking points

The new prohibition, and whom to trust in cyberspace

Light up for freedom

I no longer smoke, except for the occasional cadged party cigarette. But on the Fourth of July, I am going to say the Pledge of Allegiance and light up a Marlboro, or perhaps an unfiltered Camel. It's my patriotic duty. It's yours too, if you care about living in a nation predicated on the idea that the citizen must be protected from the natural tendency of the state to expand into his or her life.

The proposed settlement between Big Tobacco and Big Government epitomizes the new statism. It has been called the nanny state, but that is far too kind a term. It is too cold, too cruel, too implacable, too illiberal to be a nanny. It is the Nurse Ratched state.

The two principal methods by which the Nurse Ratched state achieves its aims are both rooted in that power which the Framers wanted most to limit, the power to criminalize and to punish, to deprive a citizen who violates the state's wishes of his liberty or his property.

The schemes of the new statism have certain similarities. The idea in each case is for politicians to identify a vaguely defined but universally supported good (minorities should not be discriminated against, children should not smoke), and then exploit public approval of this good to win acceptance of a new and vast expansion of the

Libertarian talking points

Marc Beauchamp

Editor

state's powers, and finally to render illegal the opposition to this expansion.

The National Transportation Safety Board has formally asked all 50 states to criminalize the act of allowing a child under the age of 13 to ride in the front seat of a car. The NTSB has taken this step as a response to the fact that one of the government's previous efforts at making citizens do what is good for them, the requirement of air bags in cars, has had the unfortunate side effect of killing small children (40 in this decade) who were in the front seat when the air bags deployed.

Michael Kelly in the New Republic, July 14, 1997.

Prohibition II

The (tobacco) settlement requires that strong warnings cover 25 percent of the front of every cigarette pack. Didn't any of the negotiators notice that teen smoking has jumped in recent years just as warnings have gotten larger and harsher? Are none of them aware that Death Head cigarettes are drop-dead chic in London, where they're sold in black-and-white packs with a large, leering skull and crossbones on the cover. Canada was recently obliged to rescind

the harshly punitive taxes it imposed on cigarettes when widespread trafficking across the border resulted in increased violence, intolerable demands on law enforcement, and no decline in smoking.

The anti-smoking crusaders who negotiated the tobacco settlement imagine that it is possible for adolescents to hear only half the truth—that cigarettes are poisonous. Inevitably they will learn the whole truth—that cigarettes are a mixed blessing, as a billion people around the world, lighting up every day discover to their dismay and satisfaction. America may be the first nation to ban cigarettes. It certainly won't be the first to try. Odds are, however, that as the pendulum swings, the censors once again will learn the absurdity of trying to legislate morality and the futility of aiming to stamp out ancient vices.

Richard Klein, author of "Cigarettes are Sublime" and "Eat Fat" in the Wall Street Journal, June 26, 1997.

Is cheese next?

The media has failed to mention the long-range implications of the tobacco settlement: The individual citizen no longer taking responsibility for his/her behavior and the even broader implications for more litigation against multiple other industries. Undoubtedly there are secret memos in the fast-food corporations regarding the advisability of serving greasy burgers with cheese and bacon, given the current knowledge about the risks of high fat diet and its relation to heart disease. What industry will be next? California cheeses? The dairy and cattle industry? It is easy to find risk, abdication of personal responsibility, and potential future litigation for big bucks in many aspects of the American experience. A "risk-free" society and personal freedom are not compatible.

Elliot Liff, M.D. of Mill Valley in a letter to the San Francisco Chronicle, June 28, 1997.

A 'fat tax' in our future?

"Junk food advertisements should be regulated, and excise taxes imposed on high-fat foods, just as they are on tobacco and alcohol," said Kelly D. Brownell, a psychology professor at Yale and director of the university's Center for Eating and Weight Disorders.

Michael Jacobson, the executive director of the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a group well-known for exposing fat levels of restaurant foods, described Mr. Brownell as a "very reputable expert in nutrition" and said his proposals are worth exploring.

The Washington Times, July 1, 1997.

Drink up, quick

The federal tax on beer would double and it would triple on wine under a U.S. House bill proposed Tuesday by Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton to tax beer and wine at the same rate as hard liquor.

"I do not see how you can go after cigarette smoking without going for its companion drug, alcohol," Norton, a Democrat who represents the District of Columbia,

said.

Norton described the bill as an attempt to curtail teenage drinking and an antidote to a beer industry proposal to roll back a 1991 tax increase.

Reuters, June 24, 1997.

Drug prohibition

Drug enforcement cost about \$22 billion in the Reagan years and another \$45 billion in the four years of the Bush administration, and costs about \$15 billion a year now. Total drug arrests are now more than 1 million a year. Since 1988, more people have been incarcerated for drug offenses than for all violent crimes combined, and drug offenders account for 60 percent of the federal prison population.

Today's prohibition should be repealed. Some of the reasons why: Drug prohibition causes crime. It corrupts law enforcement officials, undermines respect for the law, and destroys the community. Drug prohibition centralizes power in Washington and does violence to civil liberties. It hurts our relations with our allies. Drug prohibition does violence to the Constitution (the 10th Amendment) and it violates individual rights.

What right could be more basic, more inherent in human nature, than the right to choose what substances to put in one's own body. If government can tell us what we can put into our bodies, what can it not tell us?

What limits on government action are there? The drug war is a futile, counterproductive, big-government program.

David Boaz of the Cato Institute in Paradigm Magazine, Spring 1997.

Clinton overruled

"We have repeatedly recognized the governmental interest in protecting children from harmful materials. But that interest does not justify an unnecessarily broad suppression of speech addressed to adults," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote (in the majority opinion striking down the Clinton Administration's Communications Decency Act of 1996).

My guess is that Clinton went along with this law because he was heading into a presidential campaign in which family values, whatever they might be, were becoming the ultimate political value. Let the Supreme Court worry about the Constitution; he had to worry about a second term. This is Clinton at his most principled.

It was just last October that Clinton proposed that kids be required to pass a drug test before being granted a driver's license. Here was yet another governmental intrusion into, of all things, our bodies, with the purpose of what? Driver's tests are not administered by surprise. Nor are they administered by the federal government.

This contempt for civil liberties has become virtually a Clinton characteristic. His administration may not have accomplished all that much, but it has—by Jove!—reduced the scope of habeas corpus laws and urged the extension of the government's wiretapping authority.

see **Talking points** on page 11

Concerned about financial privacy?

It may be years before the Libertarian Party is able to elect enough officeholders to stem the erosion of financial privacy. What are you going to do in the meantime? Thanks to the Demopublicans, your financial records are an open book to any credit bureau, sue-happy lawyer or government bureaucrat with a computer. Indeed, a recent amendment to the Fair Credit Reporting Act gives the FBI the ability to check anyone's credit records *without* a search warrant or even a subpoena, and without leaving a notation in the file that a check was conducted. Welcome to the Orwellian States of America.

Fortunately, the global Free Market is providing a solution. Major credit cards are now being offered worldwide by offshore banks in tax haven countries, through the group purchasing power of offshore investment clubs. These cards offer:

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"Privacy is a Right!"

Talking points

continued from page 10

It would have been wonderful for the president to take a stand in favor of civil liberties and, at the same time, educate the public why censorship, as we keep telling the Chinese, is such a bad idea. It's not intellect he lacks, but spine.

Richard Cohen in The Washington Post, July 1, 1997.

Whom can you trust?

How to protect consumers' personal privacy on the Internet? We don't need government regulations that inhibit the free flow of information—rules that are bound to be ineffective anyway.

First we must establish the presumption that the consumer has the right to control the use made of his data—which in practice he already does, because he can refuse to do business with any merchant that does not meet his requirements.

We also need a system that encourages merchants to disclose their practices and that ensures that they actually follow their own rules. This is what TRUSTe brings to the table. It is basically a licensing system with logos that designate a merchant's practices, allowing the customer to choose for himself whether to deal with a particular company. TRUSTe validates its licensees by interviewing them and requiring them to fill out a questionnaire and sign a contract. It encourages them to have their data-processing systems audited by a major accounting firm, and it conducts its own random spot audits.

The TRUSTe scheme vigilantly protects consumers from unethical marketers, while leaving the actual choice of marketing practices where it belongs: with consumers. I wish the government itself would use TRUSTe. But of course when I'm dealing with the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Social Security Administration, or the IRS, I don't have the choice of walking away.

Esther Dyson, chairman of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, in the Wall Street Journal, June 17, 1997.



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Our caste system

The real problem with the tax bill is not its minuteness and neglect of real reform, but the concessions Republicans have made to class warfare and unconstitutional abuse of "the rich." The 16th Amendment permits an income tax, but it does not repeal the Constitution to which it is attached—and the Constitution requires law to be equally applied.

Tax law is not equally applied. It groups people by income classes and treats them differently according to their income class. Higher income classes must pay a higher

percentage of their incomes in order to stay out of prison. Moreover, higher income classes are denied benefits, such as child tax credits, that are made available to other income classes.

In a word, our income tax system is a caste system. It differs from India's only in that the benefits accrue to the lower orders rather than to the higher orders.

If Republicans were leaders, they would stand up for the Constitution and restore equal protection of the law to the work force, university admissions, federal contracting, and the tax code. But don't hold

your breath.

Paul Craig Roberts in The Washington Times, June 17, 1997.

Thanks to James R. Taggart of Andover, MA; Dave Walter, West Chester, PA; Audrey Capozzi Pappaeliou, Bellport, NY; and Scott Shreckhise, Roanoke, VA.

Contributions of ideas and articles welcome. Send them to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church, VA 22043; e-mail: <mbeauch@ix.netcom.com>

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was founded to assist those freedom loving and self-responsible people who are **committed** to living their lives free of oppressive control and taxation by governments and their agents and live free, in pursuit of happiness.

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Letters

Bashing the court, defying authority, e-mail, and more

Well-rounded stance

Prior to joining the Libertarian Party (which was, luckily, in time for the last elections), I had to make a choice between personal and economic freedom; although, not to much extent! Surprisingly, I'd "discovered" a party that not only offered both, but firmly stood its ground and offered viable solutions. Lately, I've grown concerned over the "firm" stance on both issues.

As I've been reading the NEWS and other Libertarian related publications, it seems the majority of the party would be perfectly happy with the Republicans if they wouldn't back down on their "promised" tax cuts. True, this would be VERY nice, but what gets me is that I don't believe I've ever heard mention by the Libertarian Party of the fact that the Republican Party is infiltrated with the neo-nazis of the Christian Coalition. To me, at least, it seems more frightening to be robbed of my life as opposed to my money. I doubt I'm the only one with this impression as the only response I've gotten to my Libertarian bumper stickers are from Republicans who've said I'm the reason Dole lost. Assuming, of course, if I hadn't voted for Browne, I would've voted for Dole. That couldn't be further from the truth. I have gripes with both "major" parties and would have more than likely voted for another alternate.

The Libertarian Party has plenty to say



Staying in touch

Letters to the editor

about Democrats, which are all justifiable, but rarely anything other than economics to say about Republicans even though they are the most outspoken on issues Libertarians are supposed to oppose such as church and state. To take a stance on freedom it must be well-rounded. By the looks of it, some Libertarians seem to be saying, "Okay, we can sacrifice some personal freedoms so long as the Republicans stop backing down on economic issues."

This may be a good tactic if taken only from the perspective of drawing moderate Republicans to our party, but will do little in drawing others, as I've discovered by simply talking to other people about the party. Perhaps this is something to think about in light of the new membership drives.

C.J. Chambers

cjchamb@wolfenet.com

Bash the court

I hope the Libertarian Party will bash the Supreme Court for its decision regarding sex offenders. We now have a judicial system based on crime and punishment *and preventative detention.*

This is wrong. Why not just lock up all the adults so *no one* could hurt the children?

The hype about pedophiles is insanity gone wild. Ask any pediatrician and they will tell you of thousands of kids beaten, stabbed, and tortured by parents, and how infrequent they have a case of a kid sexually abused by a neighbor or family friend.

We have made the assumption in this country that if you're not the parent of *the* child, you *must* be a pedophile. It is too dangerous to lend kids a helping hand anymore.

We are filling are prisons with people who should not be there.

Zak Adams

zakadams@msn.com

Two points

Two articles in the July 1997 NEWS remind me to point out a couple of things:

1. I believe the argument against charges of "siphoning votes" which is most respected (and found startling) by most people is to point out that many people who vote for Libertarian candidates would not have gone to the polls *at all* except for the chance to vote Libertarian. Getting into debates over *whom* votes were siphoned-off from concedes the wrong principle.

2. If it's not too late to test in the direct mail drive, I'd be willing to bet that a version with heavy emphasis on the outrageous ballot-access barriers (and that *every* Libertarian registration *as well* as membership counts *big time*, especially in contrast to the "alternatives") would be enough to (anger and) motivate a lot of people to go ahead and register Libertarian as well as to join the party.

Rick Gaber

rgaber@sprintmail.com

Fuzzy-warm

It has always been clear to me that voting for any candidate other than the Republican is a sure-fire way to help Democrats get elected. The only exception that comes to mind is the 1996 Georgia U.S. senatoral election which was thrown into a runoff because of the Libertarian vote. Presumably, the Libertarian voters eventually voted Republican because he won by beating the Democrat to whom he had originally come in second.

As an aside, that provided Bill Clinton's first in a long series of electoral defeats; ironically, in the same year as his own election as president.

Your July article citing Bob Dornan as proof of Libertarian impact was heart warming but little more than anecdotal. I believe that B-1 has blamed space aliens, also.

You needed to cite the vote percentages in his district for Democrat, Libertarian, and Republican. And, then attempt to prorate them among only Democrat and Republican. Then, further, likewise discuss the other six districts mentioned. If you had followed this approach, the article would have been meaningful. As printed, it was fuzzy-warm but little more than a waste of ink.

Kenneth Bryant

kpbryant@ix.netcom.com

E-mail encouragement

I am a member of the LP of Georgia, as well as the national party. I want to commend you on the good job you are doing in getting the news of LP triumphs over statism out to the people, however few these victories may be. In the endless litany of further incursion of the state into our lives, these successes sound a rare note of hope.

My suggestion is, can you include an e-mail address of the parties responsible for these accomplishments in your newsletter, so that readers could send a note of appreciation and encouragement? No doubt anyone fighting the octopus needs all the encouragement he can get.

Marjorie Peters

mpeters@thebest.net

Defy authority?

Phil Miller's definition (June 1997 NEWS), "... a libertarian is someone that defies authority," does not match the definitions I found or believe. One who advocates liberty does not necessarily defy authority.

If defying authority is the object, I'm sure there are available groups for this activity. Please, join the organizations which suit your needs.

The Libertarian Party is a political party. A political party attempts to influence and elect decision makers at the government level.

For the sake of credibility, allow the Libertarian Party to work to attain the authority necessary to address the silliness currently passing as government.

Douglas Beijer

Hernando, MS

Two issues

As a journalist I've been able to swing a vote or two the Party's way in the past, but lately I've come to manage little more than lukewarm enthusiasm for libertarianism because, as James L. Robson pointed out (July 1997 NEWS), the open border policy is unsound and out of touch with common sense. Americans overwhelmingly want sharp immigration reform and they're going to have it, no matter what now-slumbering political party finally gets the message.

Other than a rather bored indifference toward religious people, though, the Party's the thing! Remember, however—the issue of immigration and the reality of religion aren't going away.

Thomas Theus

Lafayette, GA

Important distinction

Thank you for the LP NEWS. I enjoy reading it and I appreciate all the effort which makes it possible.

I am writing to comment on the June issue. In my first glance over it, I see on the front page a picture of "Libertarians in Georgia host(ing) the tarring and feathering of a tax collector. . .". On page 8 there is more discussion of the tarring and feathering, and, in huge, colorful print at the bottom of the page, "the best way to show you hate the IRS. . .". On page 16, again in bold print, there is "Abolish the IRS!"

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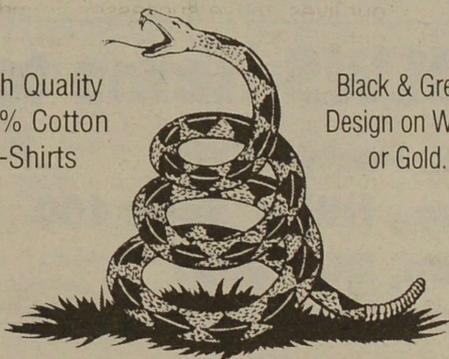
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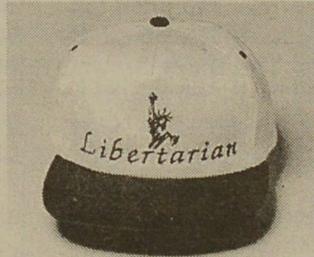


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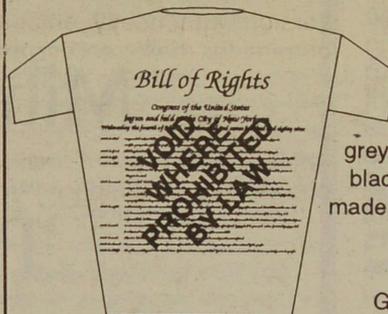
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Libertarians storm Smithsonian

By GREG DIRASIAN AND THERESA KIPPLEY

During Memorial Day weekend, Libertarians Howard Lichtman, Theresa Kippley, and Greg Dirasian (all from the Jorgensen for Vice President campaign team) got together in Washington, DC, for some sightseeing and Libertarian fun. Little did we know that we were about to witness LP history in the making.

With one day allocated to do the whirlwind DC sightseeing tour, we started our trek at the Smithsonian's American History Museum. One of the first exhibits, "We the People," demonstrated memorabilia of past presidential campaigns. As expected, the walls were plastered with flyers and posters of Republicans and Democrats of the likes of Dole and Clinton. Third-party candidates Perot and Nader were plastered in a side alcove of the exhibition. But, where were the Libertarians? Wasn't this exhibit, funded by taxpayers' dollars, supposedly representing the political climate past and present? There was no mention of Libertarians, not even of Ed Clark, our largest vote-getter ever! Dejected, we accepted that Libertarians were not in-

cluded in the exhibit. As we prepared to take our sightseeing hunger elsewhere, namely the cafeteria, we stumbled across an exhibit, "Campaigns on the Internet."

Expecting additional disappointment, with trepidation we started browsing the presidential websites. To our surprise, Libertarians had made their place in Smithsonian history! The Harry Browne web site (designed by Joe Dehn) and the Jo Jorgensen web site (designed by Greg Dirasian) were being displayed in the Smithsonian!

Although Democrat and Republican party web sites and their respective presidential candidate web sites were included in the exhibit, the Libertarian Party web site was not. Moreover, while Democrat and Republican sites were preserved mostly intact, there were many parts missing from our presidential site.

Howard Lichtman, Jorgensen's campaign manager, was delighted with what he viewed as his own little piece of immortality, and noted, "The Browne campaign should send campaign memorabilia to the Smithsonian, and help them correct their

oversight." After some reflection, Dirasian, Jorgensen's Internet coordinator, noted that the government was once again practicing some revisionist history by excluding us from most of the exhibit.

Jo Jorgensen was contacted later that day and informed of her status in the "nation's attic." At first, she thought we were joking! Later, realizing the impact that she and Harry had on political discourse in this country, she commented, "I'm pleased that the Smithsonian Institu-

tion considers Jo Jorgensen to be a national treasure. I only wish that they considered freedom a national treasure and would feature our entire campaign and not just our web sites."

The Jorgensen campaign team has decided to reunite to gather Libertarian presidential campaign memorabilia, with plans to contact the Smithsonian and work to guarantee that Libertarians and freedom are fully represented in this capsule of history.

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Letters

continued from page 12

Libertarianism can be defined as having a tolerance for the different ways that people live as long as they do not initiate force against others. This includes a tolerance for people working as tax collectors. The picture shows people tarring and feathering a "tax collector" simply because of his profession. It is appropriate to defend oneself against a coercive act, but not to attack the person or profession per se.

This is an important distinction and, to my thinking, an essential element of our philosophy. We choose to distinguish between beings and doings. We profess

to be tolerant of people or other entities even when we oppose their actions.

I apply this distinction also to the quote on page 8, "the best way to show you hate the IRS...". Surely the issue is opposition to IRS policy and action, not the liking or disliking of the Agency. Such a statement is off the point and out of place here.

Concerning the statement, "Abolish the IRS!," doesn't the IRS have the right to exist? By our philosophy, they do. Again, as I see it, the issue is opposition to IRS policy and action, and the desire to be uninvolved with that policy.

Helen Hobbs
 Cleveland Heights, OH

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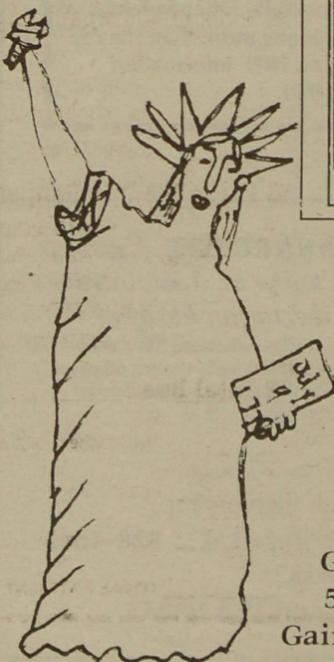
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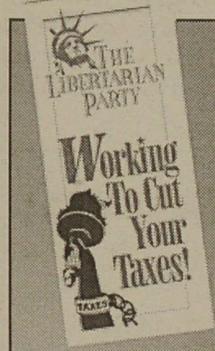
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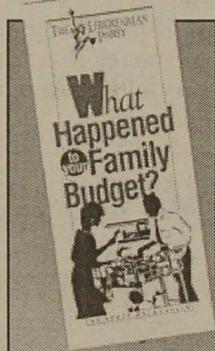
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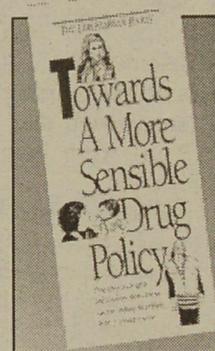


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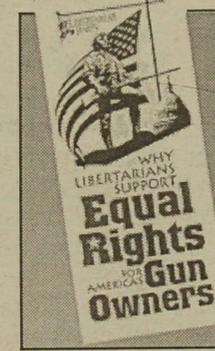
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LP NEWS

2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100

Washington, DC 20037

202-333-0008, Ext. 232

202-333-0072 (fax)

73163.3063@CompuServe.com

Calendar of Upcoming Events

Aug. 9, 1997:

LP of Los Angeles County (CA) hosts "An Evening of Liberty," fund-raising dinner featuring Charles Murray speaking and signing new book "What It Means To Be a Libertarian"; for information call 818-980-1233.

Aug. 22-24, 1997:

Liberty magazine conference and banquet, Port Townsend, WA; for information call 800-854-6991. Speakers include Harry Browne, David Friedman, and Durk Pearson and Sandy Shaw.

Sept. 6-7, 1997:

Success '97, Kansas City, MO; for information call 202-333-0008.

Sept. 27-28, 1997:

Success '97, Austin, TX; for information call 202-333-0008.

Oct. 18-19, 1997:

Maryland LP Convention and Campaign Workshop, Gaithersburg, MD; for information call 410-239-0396.

Oct. 18, 1997:

New Hampshire LP Convention, Holiday Inn, Nashua; for information call 603-627-3666. Speakers include Nadine Strossen, Jacob Hornberger, and Barbara Goushaw.

Oct. 18-19, 1997:

Success '97, Los Angeles; for information call 202-333-0008.

Oct. 25, 1997:

Hawaii LP Convention; for information call 808-487-4959. Speakers include Marshall Fritz and Jacob Hornberger.

Nov. 8-9, 1997:

Success '97, Denver; for information call 202-333-0008.

Jan. 10-11, 1998:

Success '97, Atlanta; for information call 202-333-0008.

May 9, 1998:

West Virginia LP Convention, Holiday Inn - Charleston House, Charleston; for information call John Brown at 800-950-3421. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger, Mary Ruwart, Steve Dasbach, and Wallace D. Johnson.

July 2-5, 1998:

Libertarian Party National Convention, Washington, DC; for information call 202-333-0008.

Send notice of your upcoming events to:

Upcoming Events, c/o LP NEWS
2600 Virginia Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20037
73163.3063@CompuServe.com

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Watergate Office Building
2600 Virginia Ave. NW, Suite 100
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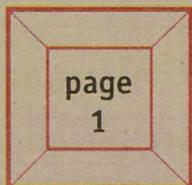
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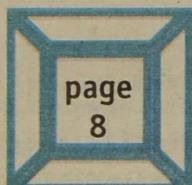
Libertarians reach milestone of 200 in public office



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Watchdogs

Alabama LP activists stop state from fingerprinting drivers



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State visit

European politicians seek LP advice

Enlightened

BARRY AND MICHELE FAGIN — founders of Families Against Internet Censorship, commenting on the U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning the Communications Decency Act:

“ This is a terrific, pro-family decision. The Court has placed the responsibility for protecting children where it belongs—with us, parents. ”