

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle



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## 21 Interesting Places

### The Word "Libertarian" Has Appeared Recently

By Bill Winter  
Editor, LP News

You'll find it cited by the Court. And from the mouth of Robert Bork. You'll find it as Gen X advice. In textbooks — not once, but *twice*. It describes Tom Selleck's views. And Dick Morris likes 'em, too!

Forgive the rhyming introduction — but it's the quickest way to show some of the *unlikely* places the word "Libertarian" has appeared recently.

How unlikely? Well, during the second half of 1997, the "L-word" has appeared in everything from a Supreme Court decision to a best-selling novel; from a SWF personal ad to shrill attack columns from Republicans; from TV's *Politically Incorrect* to the political magazine *Campaigns & Elections*.

Suddenly, it seems, the word "libertarian" is everywhere. Once practically unknown to the American public, it's now used as an all-purpose literary seasoning — a noun and an adjective; a compliment and an insult; to describe a generation and to select a boyfriend.

No, it's not always mentioned in a flattering context — but the staggering number of places where the word has cropped up is an indication of how deeply libertarian ideas have infiltrated both popular and political culture.

And to prove it, here's 21 of the more interesting mentions of the "L-word" that have appeared recently . . .

Let's start at the top, where the nation's highest court finally answered the question: Who says the Constitution is a *libertarian* document?

**1** In the case of *Agostini v. Felton* — in which the Supreme Court ruled that New York state could send public school teachers to parochial schools without violating the Constitution — Justice David Souter cited the Constitution's

See **21 MENTIONS** Page 2

## Libertarians win 22 races in Campaign '97

Pennsylvania leads the way with 14 wins

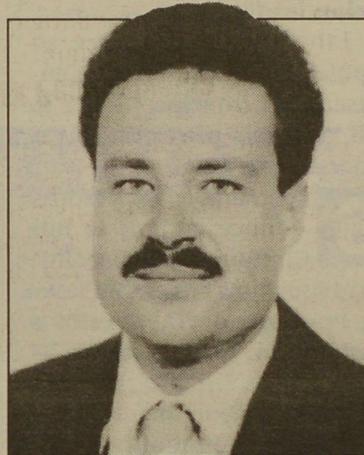
At least 22 Libertarian Party candidates were elected or re-elected in Campaign '97 — the largest number of wins in party history in a single election cycle.

Leading the charge was Pennsylvania, where 14 LP members were elected. Libertarians also won in Ohio, Connecticut, Washington, Idaho, Michigan, California, and Massachusetts.

"Our record number of candidates and victories for an odd-year election shows that the Libertarian Party is coming of age," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger.

Campaign '97 boosted the number of Libertarians serving in public office around the country — elected or appointed — to more than 230, an all-time high.

Here's a state-by-state list of



■ Fred Collins, Michigan: He'll have "victory party that actually is a victory."



■ Dianna Reiser, Pennsylvania: Elected Inspector Of Elections, Montgomery Co.

Libertarian Party victories:

#### ■ Pennsylvania

State Libertarians are celebrating a record number of can-

didates and a record number of victories for an off-year election — with more than a dozen LP members in the winner's circle.

"1997 was a high-water mark for the party," said State Chair Tim Moir. "[It was] not the breakthrough some had hoped for,

See **LIBERTARIANS ELECTED** Page 4

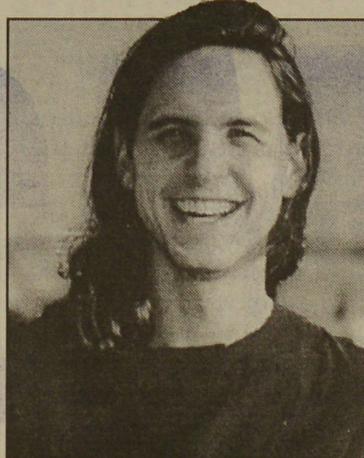
**Murray Sabrin Results From New Jersey: Page 3**

## San Diego curfew protest gets MTV exposure for Libertarian

When Libertarian Party member Dave Doctor launched his campaign against the San Diego curfew in July, he never expected to end up on MTV.

But there he was on October 12th, chatting with MTV correspondent Serena Altschul on the popular cable television music network, explaining to its young audience how to "Fight For Your Rights" against a government that was limiting their freedoms.

"We can't rely on the government and the courts to do away with unjust laws; we have to rely on ourselves," said Doc-



■ Dave Doctor: "I am not affected by the curfew but I am disturbed by its injustice."

tor. "The Founding Fathers gave us the First Amendment and we should use it."

Doctor, a youthful looking 26 with long hair and a taste for casual clothes, appeared on MTV five times in October — twice on a series entitled "Fight For Your Rights," and three times on the network's regular news program, "The Week In Rock."

Reaching a nationwide audience of hundreds of thousands of teenagers, college students, and twentysomethings, he explained the background of his anti-curfew protests, and offered

See **CURFEW PROTEST** Page 4

# 21 Mentions

Continued from Page 1

"**Libertarian** guarantees" as one reason for his dissent (issued on June 23rd).

Speaking of schools: What are America's young minds learning these days? In at least two civics textbooks, they're learning that there is an alternative to the Rs and the Ds.

**2** In the latest edition of *Magruder's American Government*, the chapter on "Political Parties" began by posing this question: "Which political party nominated Ron Paul as its 1988 presidential candidate? Count yourself wrong if you answered either Democratic or Republican. The correct answer is the **Libertarian** Party — the third largest political party in the United States." (Prentice Hall)

**3** And the brand-new 1998 edition of *Government By The People* includes a photograph of the LP's 1996 presidential candidate, Harry Browne, and notes: "**Libertarianism** is an ideology that cherishes individual liberty and insists on a sharply limited government. Libertarian positions are rarely timid; at the very least, they prompt intriguing debate." (Simon & Schuster)

"Libertarian" continues to be linked to an increasing number of prominent people. The latest examples:

**4** Richard Branson—the high-flying CEO of Britain's Virgin Group

(which owns, among other things, an airline and a record company), said in an article by Reuters News Service about a proposed ban on tobacco sponsorship of sporting events: "Don't misunderstand me — I'm a **libertarian**. If adults want to smoke and buy cigarettes they also have the right, provided they don't cause harm to others." (July 14th)

**5** And former *Magnum, PI* star Tom Selleck has "libertarian leanings" — according to his father. In an article on *E! Online* (August 29th), Robert Selleck said his son "isn't even a Republican. He's a registered independent with **libertarian** leanings."

Libertarian ideas are so popular they're even getting endorsements from people we'd, well, probably prefer *not* to get endorsements from.

**6** For example, Dick Morris — once famous as Bill Clinton's Svengali political advisor, now famous for leaving lip-prints on the toes of a Washington, DC, prostitute — enthused: "I think **libertarians** are terrific. I think there's a tremendous potential for a third party." (September 17th, on the Diane Chapman Show, KUCI Radio, Aliso Viejo, California.)

But wait — it's not all flowery praise. You see, not everyone likes those Libertarians yet.

**7** Objectivists celebrated the 40th anniversary of the publication of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* by taking potshots at Libertarians. In an article in the *Washington Times* to mark that event, Michael Berliner of the Ayn Rand Institute sniffed, "**Libertarians** don't like Objectivism. The Libertarians want the politics without the philosophy." (September 9th)

**8** In a classified ad in *The Stranger*, Seattle's largest alternative weekly newspaper, an oxymoronic "smart leftist woman" was seeking a "similar guy, 27-37, for movies, etc." But there were certain character flaws she simply couldn't tolerate: "No drunks, addicts, or **libertarians**," she instructed. (September 18th.)

And speaking of "No Liber-



■ The Supreme Court: The Constitution's "libertarian guarantees . . ."

tarians need apply," Republicans have been lining up to bash libertarians at every opportunity. A few examples:

**9** "This **libertarian** thing needs to be confronted," thundered Bill Bennet (*US News & World Report*, August 11th) about Massachusetts governor (and *pseudo-libertarian*) William Weld's attempt to get appointed ambassador to Mexico.

## MSNBC PUNDIT

Omar Wascow: "The libertarian consensus stunned us."

**10** Failed Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork knocked libertarianism for having "the same sweet view of human nature as sentimental liberalism." *Say what?*

Bork explained: "**Libertarianism** shares these characteristics except that it rejects government interventionism to achieve economic equality." (*Wall Street Journal*, October 9th)

**11** And conservative columnist Don Feder (July 11th) chastised Republicans for their "current craze" to embrace libertarians — because "conservatives who lie down with **libertarians** are apt to rise up smelling of marijuana and body oil." (*Body oil!?*)

Other conservatives just wanted to make sure that no one confused *them* with one of those Libertarians.

**12** "I'm not a **libertarian** in any manner of means," explained Representative Henry Hyde (R-IL), in an interview in *Investors Business Daily*. "I don't trust human nature as much as libertarians do."

**13** Senator Rick Santorum (R-PA) went even further. He wanted people to know that Republicans are not — repeat, *not* — the party that sup-

ports limited government.

On *Politically Incorrect* (August 15th), he was quizzed by host Bill Maher about the apparent paradox of Republicans wanting to ban abortion. Asked Maher: "We're talking about government getting involved, which I thought Republicans were against?"

Not so, explained Santorum: "[You're] talking about what **Libertarians** are against, not what *Republicans* are against."

But despite the Republicans' distaste, Libertarianism just won't go away. In fact . . .

**14** "Nobody knew about the Libertarian Party 15 years ago . . . but Libertarian ideas are actually very much now a part of our general political discussion," said Lisa Schiffren (a contributing editor at *The American Spectator*) just a week later on *Politically Incorrect*. (August 20th)

Libertarians are even cropping up in political magazines that used to cater exclusively to the Rs and Ds:

**15** In a reader's survey for *Campaigns & Elections* magazine (August) — the "bible" of the political industry — subscribers were asked for their political affiliation. In addition to the usual suspects, they were also given the choice of . . . (drum roll, please) **Libertarian**.

Libertarianism is also creeping into more books.

**16** A plug for the Libertarian Party appeared in Claire Wolfe's *101 Things to Do 'til the Revolution*. The book, a sassy "how-to" manual about coping with the overbearing government, noted: "If you must vote, vote **Libertarian**. I'm not saying Libertarians are perfect. Still, if you have to vote, the LP beats the hell out of the alternatives." (Loomponics Unlimited.)

And the "L-Word" has made the leap into popular culture:

**17** In the brooding mystery novel *Manhattan Nocturnal* by Colin Harrison, the narrator, a columnist for a New York City newspaper, boasts: "I sell newspapers. I sell mayhem, scandal, murder, and doom. I sell black to white, white to black. To Democrats and Republicans and **Libertarians**..." (Dell Books)

Other media mentions suggest that the perfect libertarian may be a cigarette-puffing Gen Xer:

In a newspaper published by a

■ Scandal-meister Morris: "Libertarians are terrific!"

chain of discount cigarette stores in California, readers got a lesson on the "Libertarian Philosophy on Smoking . . ."

**18** In *News from Cigarettes Cheaper*, readers learned that: "**Libertarians** believe: You own your own body. You can do with your body as you choose, as long as you injure no one else." (August)

**19** Advice columnist "Geny X," in a July 13th column in the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune*, wondered: "Is Xer thought really **Libertarian** philosophy?" She didn't reach any conclusions, but did note that she had little faith in a political system full of "spineless sell-outs, and out-of-touch geezers."

**20** Generation X television commentators have apparently also been bitten by the libertarian bug. In a genteelly sneering article about the "new generation" of TV talking heads in the *New York Times Magazine*, MSNBC pundit

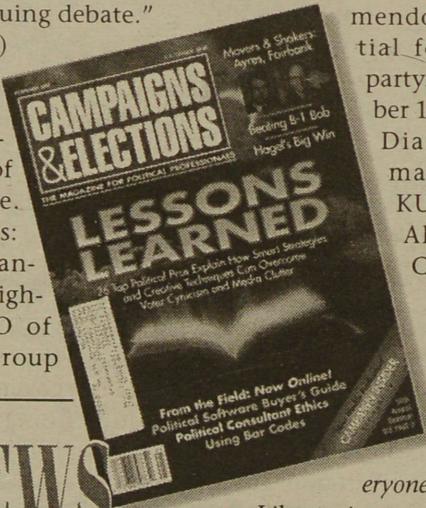
Omar Wascow said that on many issues, "The **libertarian** consensus stunned us." (June 15th)

And we'll end with what is perhaps the *oddest* definition of "libertarian" ever to appear in print . . .

**21** Libertarians, explained the *Orange County Register*, are people "who stock up on a variety of different candies" for Halloween.

Huh? That's right: In an article about the different types of people who distribute sweets on Halloween, the newspaper listed "The **Libertarians**" as one category. For them, "it's about choice," the article explained. (October 23rd)

It's an apt metaphor: It's taken two decades, but as these 21 mentions illustrate, "**libertarian**" has finally become as popular as . . . well, candy on Halloween.



## LP NEWS

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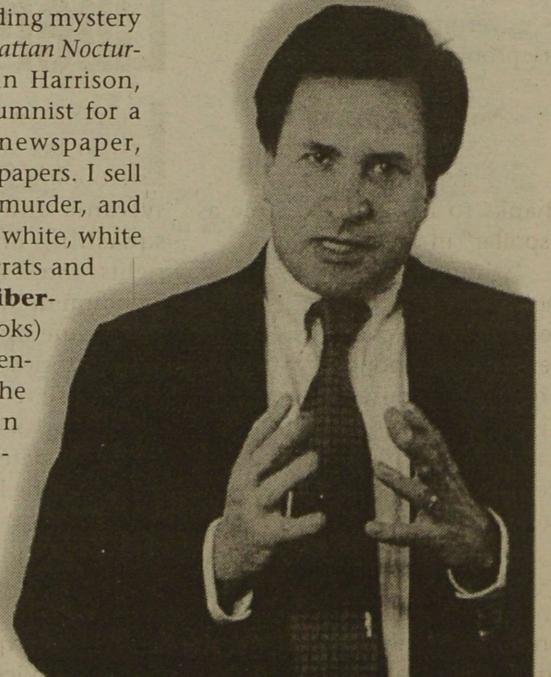
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Bill Winter

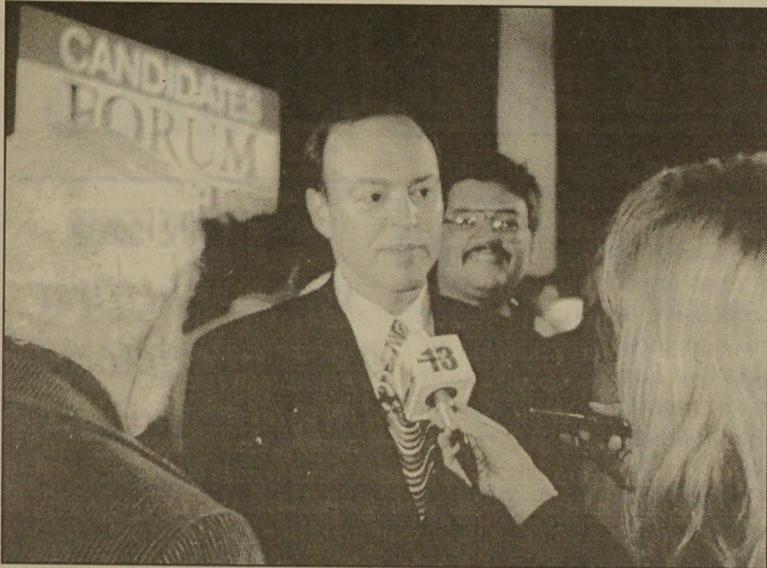
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Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994





■ Murray Sabrin: Following the election, he will "re-evaluate what's the best way for me to promote the libertarian agenda. It could be speaking, or teaching, or through the media."

## Sabrin wins 4.86% in NJ's governor's race

The high-visibility Murray Sabrin campaign for governor in New Jersey ended up with 4.86% of the vote — a result which the professor-turned-Libertarian candidate said he was pleased with because it "moved the agenda forward, and that in itself is a victory."

Sabrin won 113,861 votes out of 2,341,027 votes cast, coming in third behind the winner, incumbent Republican governor Christie Todd Whitman (48%) and the Democratic challenger, Jim McGreevey (47%).

However, Sabrin said his campaign accomplished his principal goal: "We were hoping for a high-visibility campaign and we got it. We have made a huge impact and we no longer can be dismissed as a fringe movement."

"My main goal was to get the LP message across. I wanted to let people know we're out to alter the two-party system," he said. "[By contrast], both of my opponents represented *one* idea — government solutions to every problem."

### National attention

The campaign earned national attention for Sabrin, thanks to his potential role as "spoiler" in the race.

Sabrin also won kudos for his polished performance in three televised debates against his better-known opponents. The *New York Times* praised him for his "energetic and spirited performance" and noted that he "received the most overall cheers from the studio audience."

Sabrin's campaign was boosted by \$322,791.76 in state matching funds, but his decision to accept it was controversial among Libertarians — as was his

### MURRAY SABRIN:

*"We moved the agenda forward, and that in itself is a victory."*

decision to run as a "pro-life" Libertarian.

Sabrin's performance was the third-best for a gubernatorial candidate in LP history, trailing only Ed Clark in California in 1978 and Miriam Luce in New Hampshire in 1990.

As far as his political future, Sabrin declined to speculate, but told supporters at his election night gathering: "If you have extra signs and bumper stickers, keep them handy."

## Libertarians win ballot questions in 4 states

Libertarian lobbying efforts won big in Election '97 — stopping tax hikes in Pennsylvania and Minnesota and squashing an anti-property-rights "forest management" referendum in Maine.

In one of the most impressive victories, a proposed one-half percent sales tax hike in **Pennsylvania** went down to crushing defeat, 64% to 36%, thanks to the lobbying efforts of the Good Sports Coalition — a group which was dominated by Libertarian Party members.

"We did even better than many of us expected," said Terry McIntyre, Vice Chair of the Al-

## Utah talk show host joins LP

*And two other radio hosts announce they're libertarians, too*

Libertarianism is lighting up America's airwaves again, with the decision by a prominent radio talk show host to join the Libertarian Party — and with public announcements by two other talk show hosts that they support the party.

Jim Kirkwood, the afternoon drive-time host on KTKK-AM in Salt Lake City, Utah, became a dues-paying, pledge-signing member of the Libertarian Party of Utah on October 8th, according to State Chair Jim Dexter.

Kirkwood signed up following a speech by Dexter at a breakfast meeting of the Coalition for Accountable Government, a non-partisan, anti-tax, smaller-government group.

October 8th was Dexter's birthday, and the talk show host's decision "was one of the best birthday presents I could have asked for," he said.

### Frequent guests

"A genial and gracious host, [Kirkwood] generally keeps his political views to himself unless unduly provoked by a caller," said Dexter. "While we don't expect him to become another outspoken on-air Libertarian like Gene Burns or Lowell Ponte, LP of Utah officers are frequent guests on his program."

Kirkwood is a former member of the Republican Party's state committee — but he's "held libertarian beliefs since he read Ayn Rand's *The Fountainhead* in college," said Dexter.

Kirkwood said he will keep his Republican connections in hopes that the GOP will eventually "see the light" — but said the Libertarian Party is "positioned for the future."



■ Jim Kirkwood, afternoon drive-time host on KTKK-AM: The Libertarian Party is "positioned for the future."

The decision by Kirkwood to join the LP means that "in Salt Lake City's radio market, the Libertarian Party and Libertarian ideas are well represented," said Dexter.

Kirkwood's talk program — ranked #1 on the station — airs on Thursdays and Fridays on KTKK between 4:00 and 7:00 pm. Meanwhile, another host on Kirkwood's station has also declared on the air that he is a libertarian. KTKK morning host E. Jackson Stockwell said on September 29th, "I am neither a liberal or conservative. I am a libertarian."

### "Transferring" to the LP

And across the country, radio show host Selborne "Suds" Coleman on WIOD-AM — which broadcasts in the Miami/Fort Lauderdale/Boca Raton area in Florida — announced on the air on July 30th that he was "transferring" to the Libertarian Party. Coleman, a Democrat for 20

years who "got really tired of all the crap," said he plans to change his party registration to Libertarian and may officially join the party as well.

Coleman said he made his decision because he was unhappy with both of the older parties. Democrats, he said, should keep their "hands off the Internet. It seems to be doing just fine without censorship."

As far as the Republicans, he said, he has "never been a big fan of the GOP's social agenda. I believe in live and let live."

By contrast, he said he strongly agrees with the Libertarian Party's call to end Drug Prohibition, which he called "a lot of money spent with very little results. It's a losing proposition, just like prostitution: How many years have we been trying to stop that? The government is fighting a futile, losing battle. If people want something — whether it's drugs or anything else — they're going to get it."

### PENNSYLVANIA:

*"We did better than many of us predicted."*

legheny County LP. "Against an unprecedented barrage of advertising, outspent more than 100 to one, we still blew the [tax hike] right out of the water."

In **Minnesota**, Libertarians helped put the brakes on any effort to impose a new sports sta-

dium tax. A local referendum requiring approval from city voters before the city government spends money on a new sports facility passed 70% to 30%.

"Opposition to the stadium is growing from all corners," said State Chair Charles Test, a key figure in the anti-stadium effort.

In **Maine**, a referendum question that would have given the state government more control over tree-cutting on private property lost 53% to 47%.

The referendum had been blasted by LP State Chair Dick Eaton as "an assault on private property rights," and had met with stiff resistance from Com-

mon Sense for Maine's Forests, an alliance which included the Libertarian Party.

In **Illinois**, the Fox Valley Libertarian Club helped propel a \$78 million bond question to a decisive two-to-one defeat, thanks to their intensive lobbying effort.

"Voters are so fed up with taxes they are saying to just forget it!" said Libertarian Julie Fox of East Dundee.

But the news wasn't so good in Albemarle County, **Virginia**, where Libertarians narrowly lost a battle to kill a 4% tax on prepared food in Albemarle Co., Virginia, said LP member Jim Lark.

# Libertarians elected to office in 8 states

Continued from Page 1

[but] if we continue at this intensity, the breakthrough will come."

LP candidates picked up wins in several uncontested races for Inspector Of Elections, which they targeted as "stepping-stone" positions to higher offices — victories which Moir predicted would eventually come from "hard work, smart campaigning, and a little luck."

■ In Allegheny County, Tim Lloyd was elected as Inspector Of Elections (Ward 14 Division 13).

■ In Berks County, Mark Wicks won a seat on the Upper Tulpehocken Township Board of Supervisors in a three-way race.

■ In Chester County, Catherine Collins was elected to the Coatesville Area School Board.

■ In Montgomery County, six Libertarians were victorious: Larry Gubard (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 11-2); Stephanie Heckman (Inspector Of Elections, Abington 6-2); Dianna Reiser (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Moreland Ward 7-2); Sharon Shepps (Inspector Of Elections, Upper Providence); Chris Zabala (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections, 3-1 District); and Obie Mild (Norristown Borough Inspector of Elections District 2-2).

■ In Philadelphia, four more Libertarians were winners: Tim Moir, (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 5, Division 14); Phil Janusz, (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 12, Division 14); Jim Pratt (Inspec-

tor Of Elections, Ward 58, Division 40); and Dan Sarandrea (Inspector Of Elections, Ward 56, Division 31).

## Philly District Attorney

Also in Philadelphia, a Libertarian candidate for District Attorney finished in third place — but less than six percentage points behind the Republican. Leon Williams won 14.18% in a three-way, partisan race, just behind the GOP candidate, who had 19.82%.

"We earned some respect" with the race, said Moir — and the LP picked up "three times the amount [of votes] needed to guarantee majority party status to the Libertarian Party in the city of Philadelphia."

■ In York County, Chad Lucabaugh was elected Constable in Conewago Township.

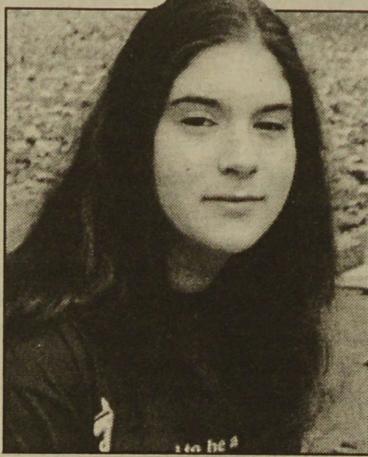
Overall, Moir said the party was very pleased with the results — and is hoping that late vote totals will push the number of LP winners even higher.

"We had 53 candidates for election in 1997, a record for the Pennsylvania Libertarian Party in an off-year election," he said. "When the dust settles, we will probably have elected between 15 and 20. We have learned a lot and polished a lot of candidates."

## Idaho

Ron Wittig made history by becoming the first Libertarian to win public office in that state.

Wittig was elected to the



■ Stephanie Heckman, Pennsylvania: Elected Inspector Of Elections, Montgomery Co.

City Council in the small community of New Meadows, about 100 miles north of Boise. He placed second in a three-way race, with the top two vote-getters winning a seat.

The leading candidate won 130 votes, Wittig won 80 votes, and the losing candidate got 54 votes in the non-partisan race.

## Vocal opponent

Wittig has been an LP member for over 20 years, and has been a vocal opponent of efforts by the City Council to expand planning and zoning laws in New Meadows.

"One of Ron's first goals will be to undo the damage done by the Planning & Zoning Board in recent years, if not abolish it outright. He expects to succeed because the 5-seat council will now have a pro-freedom majority,"

said Chris Struble, State Chair of the Idaho LP.

"This is an excellent example of what any dedicated person can achieve over time by being active in their community," he said. "We hope this will be the first of many more victories for Libertarians in Idaho."

## Michigan

In one of the biggest races of the year, Fred Collins won a seat on the Berkley City Council — coming within a whisker of the leading vote-getter in the race.

Collins finished third in a six-way race, and earned one of the three open seats. He won 2,072 votes (20.22%), less than a percentage point behind the winner (who won 20.97%). Two incumbents went down to defeat in that election.

"Please forgive me for shouting it from the rooftops, but . . . we won!" said Campaign Manager Barbara Goushaw, who had run Jon Coon's campaigns in 1994 and 1996. "And [we] fulfilled my personal fantasy of attending a Libertarian victory party that actually is a victory."

## Election Coverage

Because of an early deadline for this issue of *LP News*, only the highlights of Election '97 are being reported. The next issue will have complete vote totals for every Libertarian Party candidate.

**"WE HOPE THIS will be the first of many victories for Libertarians in Idaho."**

Goushaw attributed the victory to Collins' aggressive campaign, which included door-to-door campaigning at every one of the city's 6,700 households, lawn signs, a special mailing to absentee voters, a full-page ad in the local newspaper, reminder postcards to registered non-voters, get-out-the-vote phone calls in the last two days, and poll workers at every precinct on election day.

"While this was a non-partisan race, our message was pure Libertarian," said Goushaw. "Taxes, regulation, and turning one particular city-sponsored activity over to volunteers and out of the hands of the government. I believe this proves that our message can and does resonate with voters."

## Connecticut

John Joy won a two-year term on the Oxford Zoning Board of Appeals, running unopposed.

Now that he's in office, Joy

See 22 LIBERTARIANS Page 8

# Curfew protest gets LP member coverage on MTV

Continued from Page 1

a how-to lecture on organizing similar protests.

Poised and personable on camera, Doctor tossed off one-liners like an old pro — "Freedom is not a passive sport" and "Being young is not a crime" — while video footage of one of his recent protests flashed on the screen.

Prominent in one televised shot: A sign reading, "Libertarians support teenagers."

And Doctor made it clear that he supports teenagers, too — even though he's not one himself.

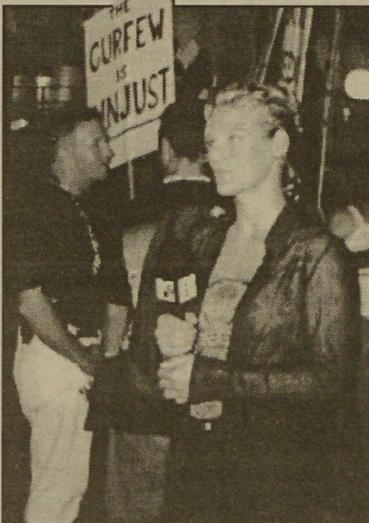
"I am not directly affected by the curfew but I am disturbed by its injustice," he explained. "The government should not dictate a person's lifestyle. Every law-abiding person should have the right to be out past 10 pm, drive without a seatbelt, and smoke. I am pro-choice on every issue."

Since July, Doctor has organized dozens of rallies in San Diego — some drawing up to 150 people — to protest the curfew that makes it illegal for teenagers to choose to be on the street after 10:00 pm.

The rallies attracted considerable local media attention for the Libertarian activist — which helped, said Doctor, send the message to San Diego's young people that only *one* political party is really on their side.

## Intolerant

"Since I am described [in the media] as a Libertarian activist fighting City Hall, I have indirectly shown that neither the Republicans nor Democrats are willing to repeal the curfew," he said. "Democrats may call themselves liberal, but they are as intolerant as Republicans. Our campaign is showing people that



■ MTV's Serena Altschul broadcasts from the scene of the curfew protest.

Libertarians are the true liberals who will defend our freedoms."

After four months, the protests attracted the attention of MTV, which was looking for ex-

amples of young people engaging in social protest.

Before long, an MTV camera crew showed up at his house, followed him to the curfew protest in downtown San Diego, and then interviewed him about how other young people could follow in his activist footsteps.

Doctor was somewhat blasé about appearing on MTV, and said only, "I was excited that I was able to articulate our Libertarian message."

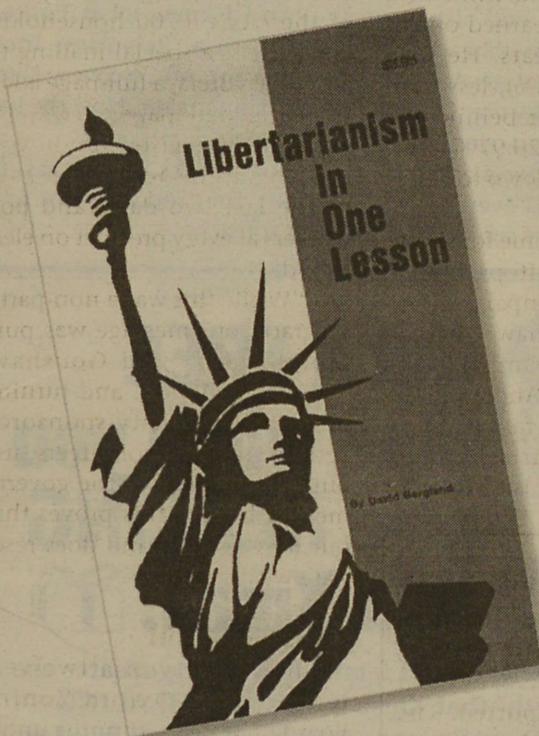
Now that his moment in the MTV spotlight has passed — and even though the San Diego City Council says it's determined not to repeal the curfew — Doctor said his anti-curfew battle will go on.

"Our government should protect a teenager's freedom, not take it away," he explained. And it's his job as a Libertarian, he said, to "preserve our nation's freedom for the next generation."



■ "Libertarians support teenagers" reads the sign at the curfew protest rally.

# The Only Lesson You'll Ever Need!



## LIBERTARIANISM IN ONE LESSON

NEW, EXPANDED SEVENTH EDITION!

By David Bergland

"The best introduction to Libertarianism yet written."

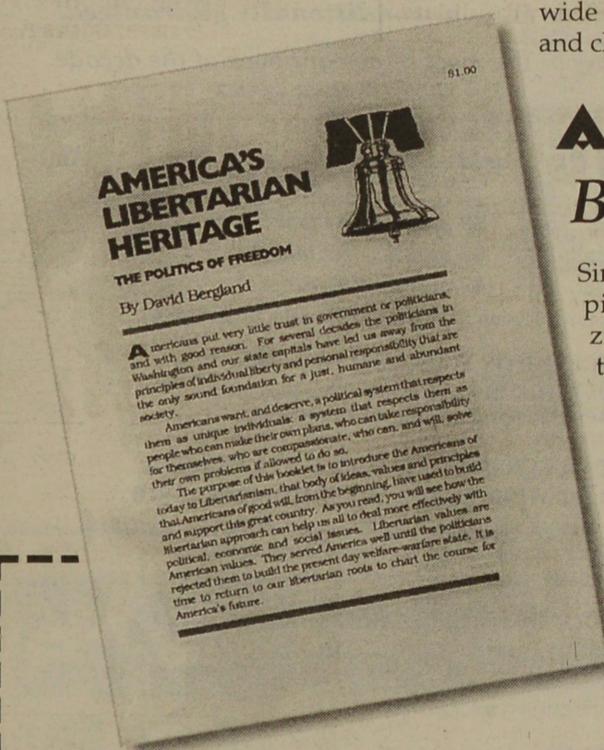


*Libertarianism In One Lesson* was first published in 1984 during David Bergland's Libertarian presidential campaign. Demand for the book has continued undiminished, establishing it as the standard introductory text for the libertarian movement and the Libertarian Party.

Now in its Seventh Edition (August 1997), *Libertarianism In One Lesson* has been continually updated and revised in light of the end of the Cold War, the worldwide trend toward liberty, democracy and free markets, and changing economic and social conditions in the U.S.

*Libertarianism In One Lesson* is unsurpassed as that important first book for the friend, student or potential Libertarian Party member who needs a thorough, yet concise, introduction to America's unique philosophy of liberty and its place in American history.

Includes chapters on the nature of government, libertarian philosophy, the Libertarian Party, foreign policy, education, taxation, the environment, gun rights, the War on Drugs and more. Includes an extensive bibliography of additional readings and an appendix of libertarian oriented organizations.



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# Building a better LP activist: Success '97 in Los Angeles

*From Political Intoxication to Relentless Incrementalism: An inside look at the LP's leadership training seminars*

By Juan Ros

Success '97 rolled into Los Angeles the weekend of October 18th and 19th, and I was excited.

I would be meeting "those guys from National" — National Chair Steve Dasbach, National Director Ron Crickenberger, past director Perry Willis, and Communications Director Bill Winter, among others.

I would be attending workshops that promised to teach me how to be a better Libertarian activist and candidate.

And I would be meeting Libertarian activists like myself from across the western United States.

Things didn't get off to a good start. Downtown Los Angeles was a traffic disaster. The Downtown Hyatt Hotel (my destination) and the surrounding streets were blocked off due to a charity road race. But liberty requires pain and sacrifice, and so I walked to the hotel from a parking lot four blocks away.

## "Road to Victory"

Despite this logistical challenge, the seminar got off to a rousing start as Steve Dasbach and Perry Willis outlined the much-debated LP "Road to Victory" plan: The National Party's strategy of increasing membership to at least 200,000 in order to have a strong financial base by the next presidential election.

I also learned the basic philosophy behind the Road to Victory: "Discovery Before Persuasion." Discover those people who are most likely to hold libertarian beliefs first, and then persuade them to join the LP.

This made sense. I was in-

trigued. I grew hungry for more knowledge.

The two-day seminar was split into two tracks: Party-Building and Campaigning. Having committed to run for Congress next year, I decided to attend Ron Crickenberger's "Proven Program to Win Your Precinct."

I learned about Political Intoxication: That illogical euphoria that overcomes many Libertarian candidates when they begin to feel, rightly or wrongly, that they are going to win their race. Political Intoxication can lead to loss of focus and bad decisions in the crucial final weeks

**I HAD DISCOVERED**  
*the secrets of the political cosmos.*

of a campaign. I made a vow never to allow myself to become Politically Intoxicated — even as visions of a Congressional victory danced in my head.

It was time to figure out how to improve my local region, so I moved next door to the Party Building track.

What an eye-opener! First, Bill Winter talked about organizing at the state level, citing his experience as Chair of the New Hampshire LP. I went to lunch, brain working on all cylinders. I devoured my fast-food Chinese and quickly wandered back inside.

Next, Perry Willis gave what I found to be the most enlightening and informative workshop of the weekend: Effective organizing at the local level. With a simple

plan (monthly volunteer-organizing parties backed up by fundraising letters) and a simple strategy ("Operation Everywhere"), Willis had built the San Diego LP region into the largest and most active region in California.

The concept of "Relentless Incrementalism," first mentioned by Dasbach in the opening workshop, was brought home by Willis: Grow, little by little, by doing the same effective things over and over and over. Don't expect immediate success. Rather, be happy with small increments of success, and be relentless.

Again, this made sense. I was elated. I felt like I had discovered the secrets of the political cosmos. And I wanted to know more.

Dr. Jim Lark, faculty advisor to eight libertarian student groups at the University of Virginia, gave an inspiring talk on how to organize campus groups. Winter closed the first day out with a humorous and informative workshop on what constitutes an effective Libertarian newsletter. I learned that, for example, sex poetry does *not!*

I could barely speak to my wife that night. My mind was abuzz. She asked me to get the laundry. Instead, I reviewed my notes and looked forward to Sunday.

## Tough questions

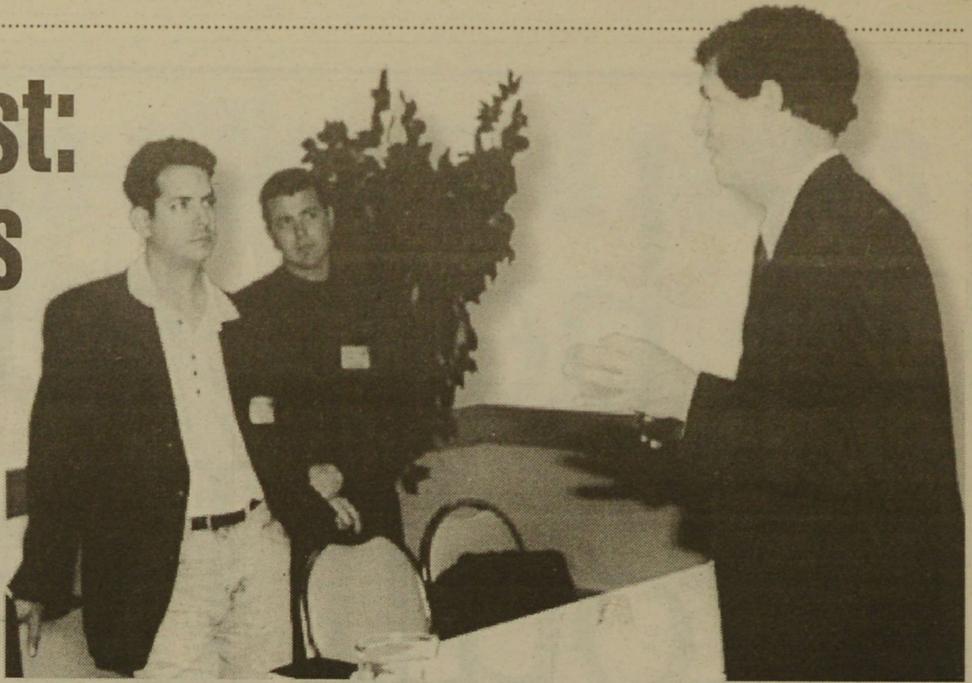
I was not disappointed. The second day began with David Bergland, the LP's 1984 Presidential candidate, showing us how to give short answers to tough questions in "Libertarianism in 30 Seconds."

Next, Winter, Bergland, and special guest expert Bill Farley from *Playboy* magazine taught us strategies to master the media. Finally, Willis and Michael Cloud ended the seminar with a workshop on fundraising through direct mail and special events.

And just like that, Success '97 was over. I didn't even get to see everything. I missed Jerry Russell, political consultant and publisher of *Grass Roots Campaigning*. I missed the dinner banquet on Saturday night.

But I came away with more than my money's worth.

I had met the mucky-mucks



■ Juan Ros (left) and Dan Westphal get advice from Dr. Jim Lark (right) on campus organizing at the Los Angeles Success '97.

from National. I had also met over 30 other Libertarian activists from Washington state, Arizona, and all over California. I had a campaign packet, an overflowing blue folder, and a filled notebook under my arm. I'd even bought books and tapes as souvenirs.

And I knew what Political Intoxication, Relentless Incrementalism, and Discovery Before Persuasion meant. Now the hard work begins.

But thanks to Success '97, success does indeed seem to be within reach.



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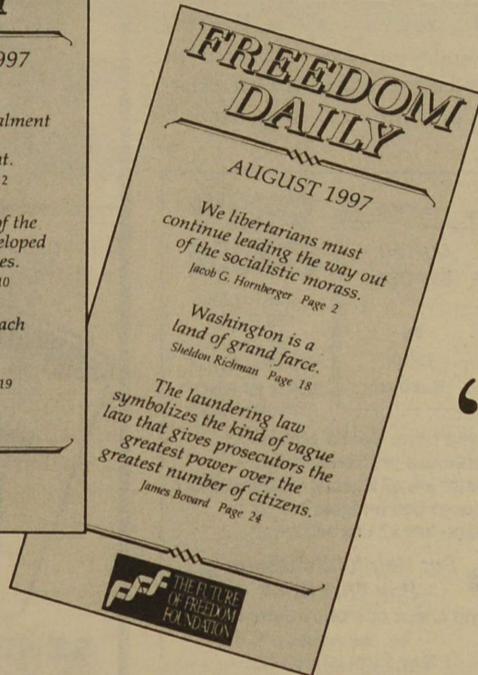
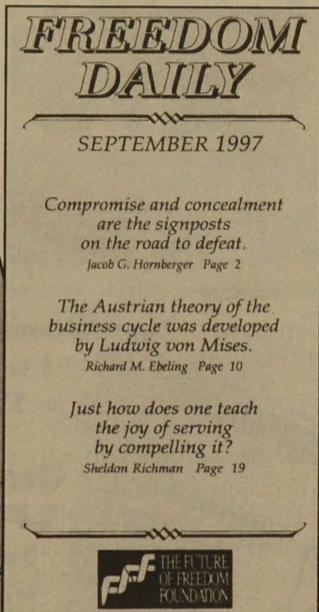
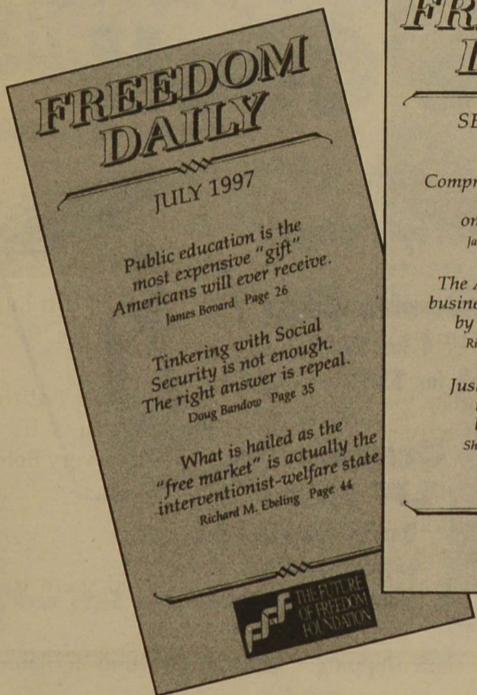
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■ Michael Cloud (right) shares fundraising secrets with California Libertarians Michael and Janice Edelstein at Success '97.

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# 22 Libertarians win

Continued from Page 4

said, "I plan to remind my fellow board members that the United States and Connecticut constitutions supersede Oxford's regulations. I have always been particularly disturbed when it comes to matters involving someone else's property. Last I looked, the Takings Clause was still part of the Bill of Rights."

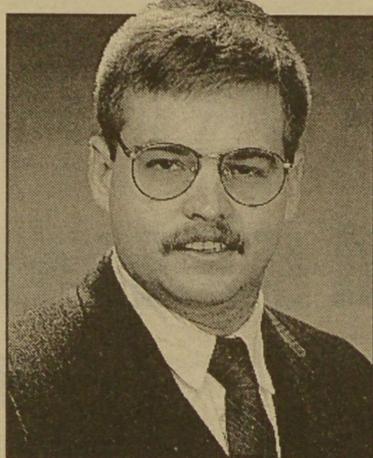
## ■ Massachusetts

Ron "Rocky" Jepson was elected as a Town Meeting Member in Saugus with 247 votes. He becomes the fifth Libertarian to win office in Massachusetts.

## ■ Washington state

John Gearhart was elected to one of six seats on the City Council in Palouse in a non-partisan, non-contested race.

The major issue he stressed in his campaign, he said, was opposition to the City Council's attempt to draft a "comprehensive" plan for the city that would tell residents "things like where we should plant our flowers. I told voters this is an Orwellian plan, and I want to kill it."



■ **John Joy, Connecticut:** Will keep an eye on "matters involving someone else's property."

Gearhart said he's now eyeing a possible run for State Representative in 1998, and urged other Libertarian candidates: "Look for an opening and go for it. If you want to have someone on the ballot that you can vote for, it just might be you."

## ■ Ohio

Libertarians chalked up two wins in Election '97 — both in re-election campaigns.

Bob DeBrosse was returned to the Piqua City Council for a second term by a narrow margin.

"DeBrosse plans to run for the Ohio State House in 1999, and he's an excellent candidate whom we're watching closely," said Dena Bruedigam, the editor of the Ohio state newsletter.

Also winning re-election was Richard Shelter, as a Bethlehem Township Trustee.

## ■ California

In Salinas, Mark Dierolf "coasted to an easy victory for his second term" as a Trustee for Harnell Community College, accord-

ing to State Chair Mark Hinkle.

Dierolf won 48.2% of the vote in the non-partisan race, beating four challengers.

"I asked him how he did it, especially since he beat a His-

panic candidate in a Hispanic district," recounted Hinkle. "His answer: He spent about \$4,000 and walked door-to-door, twice. So I told him he won the old-fashioned way: He earned it."

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# TALKINGPOINTS

## Government subsidized clowns, suspicious citizens, & tolerance

### Send in the clowns

Your federal government has an odd sense of humor, but at least you always know how the jokes turn out. The punchline is always a price tag, and the laughs are always at taxpayers' expense.

Take the one about the high school in Redlands, California, which is bringing in motivational speakers and other performers on campus to amuse the kids at lunch. According to the *Riverside (CA) Press-Enterprise*, the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands puts on the daily show with a federal grant (here it comes) for \$25,000.

Why? Because this year, the kids are no longer allowed to leave the campus at lunch, to improve student safety.

Some feared the new policy would make students tense. So the Boys & Girls Club brought in its subsidized clowns. "Our goal is to make this a pleasant place that kids want to be at," said the school's activities director, Jan Meyers, "so they don't feel they're in prison."

It's interesting that Meyers would mention prison, because the \$25,000 for the lunchtime shows comes from a federal law-enforcement program. The source is a \$20 million fund under the Federal Bureau of Justice Assistance.

— *Investors Business Daily*  
September 24, 1997

### Pay up or else!

Although everyone agrees that corporate campaign contributions have been growing by leaps and bounds in recent times, the cold fact is that big business has been increasingly regulated by government during these same times, losing more and more rights to run their own business or hire and fire their own employees, as well as being enmeshed in ever-growing red tape and subject to more and more government micro-management.

If the corporations were paying bribes in order to get more power, obviously it has not been working — and they would have realized it was not working long before now. But, if what they are really paying is protection money, then the government's

**MARC BEAUCHAMP**  
EDITOR



**HILLARY CLINTON**  
*wants most kids under the control of government-approved day-care facilities.*

increasing muscle provides an incentive to pay still more protection money.

— **THOMAS SOWELL**  
Syndicated Columnist  
October 5, 1997

### Uncle Sam: Drug Dealer?

Americans suspect the worst about their government. They think Uncle Sam may be a mass murderer, or a drug dealer, or a presidential assassin.

For example, 51% of the public believes it is either "very likely" or "somewhat likely" that federal officials were "directly responsible for the assassination of President Kennedy" in 1963, according to a nationwide poll of 1,009 people conducted by Scripps Howard News Service and Ohio State University.

More than one-third of those surveyed suspect that the U.S. Navy, either by accident or on purpose, shot down TWA flight 800 near New York City last year.

An even higher percentage suspect FBI agents deliberately set the fires that killed 81 Branch Davidians in Waco, Texas, four years ago.

A majority also believe it is possible that the Central Intelligence Agency intentionally permitted Central American drug dealers to sell cocaine to inner-city black children.

— **SCRIPPS HOWARD NEWS SERVICE**, July 5, 1997

### Reno's wrong

Even if Bill Gates had a monopoly, having a monopoly in the computer business is like being married to Larry King: The one certainty is it won't last. The business is too volatile, too competitive and too unpredictable.

We can't know what rivals will emerge to challenge Microsoft's dominance. But we can be confident that the prospect of making money will attract a continuing stream of upstarts eager to dethrone the company.

Relying on government lawyers to foresee the future is likely to be a colossal mistake. The Justice Department filed an anti-trust complaint against IBM in 1969, little imagining that the personal computer would emerge and make IBM's dominance of the mainframe market a historical curiosity.

Circumstances may occasionally allow a rapacious corporation to establish temporary dominance in an industry, to the passing detriment of consumers. But we can trust the market to correct that problem in short order. In an open economy, even Bill Gates must look at Microsoft's commanding position and reflect: *This, too, shall pass.*

— **STEPHEN CHAPMAN**  
*The Washington Times*  
October 26, 1997

### Tyranny of the majority

Freedom of choice in our everyday lives is a treasured right in America.

Today, however, there are those who would deny others the choice to eat meat, wear fur, drink coffee, or simply eat extra-large portions of food, to give a few examples. Wearing perfume in public raises the ire of certain organized interest groups.

While on any day each of us may identify with the restrictive nature of a given campaign, there is a much larger issue here.

Where do we draw the line on dictating to each other? How many of these battles can we stand? Whose values should prevail?

New attempts to regulate behavior are coming from both left and right, depending on the cause. But there are those of us who don't want the tyranny of the majority (or the outspoken minority) to stop us from leading our lives in ways that have little impact on others.

While the choices we make may be foolish or self-destructive — bungee jumping is my favorite example of insanity — there is still the overriding principle that we cannot allow the micro-managing of each other's lives.

— **GEORGE MCGOVERN**  
*The Houston Chronicle*  
August 17, 1997

### Child slavery

Prepare for an onslaught of news and features about the latest American social "crisis" — a dearth of safe, available and affordable day-care options.

"We want American parents to succeed at the most important task they have — caring for the next generation — and to be good workers who contribute to the economy," said Mrs. Clinton at a White House conference on the topic. In other words, your government considers you a deadbeat if your principal occupation and responsibility is taking care of your children.

Are families facing real problems today? You bet. More homes have two parents working than ever before. Why? Largely because the tax burden is so high that most couples feel they have little choice if they want to improve their material

lives.

If politicians sincerely want to create more options for parents, they ought to let them keep more of their hard-earned money — a lot more.

Hillary Clinton wants most kids under the control and supervision of government-approved day-care facilities; it will be destructive for the next generation of Americans. If you have any doubts, just look at the nation's public schools.

Yet where are the voices of opposition? Have you heard one political leader in Washington voice an articulate dissent on Hillary's plan to kidnap your children?

This one-sided debate represents nothing less than a choice between freedom and slavery.

— **JOSEPH FARAH**  
WorldNetDaily.com

### Trust the people

One year after Louisiana and Kentucky enacted "right to carry" laws, citizens in those states have proven the skeptics wrong, demonstrating again that law-abiding citizens can be trusted to carry firearms for self-defense.

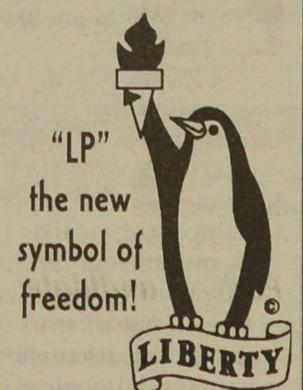
Even those who opposed the law have to agree. "Some of the things we were concerned about," said Ed Bray, president of the Kentucky Association of Chiefs of Police, "quite honestly, we have not seen happen . . ."

— **NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION FAX ALERT**  
October 3, 1997

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# THE ISSUES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announce-request@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

## "Big Mother" government day care

Hillary Clinton wants more children. Specifically, she wants your children, the Libertarian Party warned. "Forget about Big Brother watching you — it's time to start worrying about Big Mother watching your kids," charged Steve Dasbach, national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

At a White House conference on child care, Bill and Hillary Clinton unveiled a new \$250 million federal program to "solve" the problem of day care. It included taxpayer-financed scholarships for day-care workers and subsidies for low-income parents.

While Hillary stopped short of endorsing a large-scale federal child care program, at least one of her guest experts at the conference advocated a \$100-billion-a-year, tax-subsidized federal day-care program.

Asked Dasbach in response: "Do we want government day-care centers that have the efficiency of the Department of Motor Vehicles; the compassion of the BATF; the reliability of the Post Office; and the customer service of the IRS?"

## 641,642 victims of the War on Marijuana

Who says Bill Clinton is "soft on drugs?" Not the 641,642 Americans who were arrested last year on marijuana charges — the largest number in our nation's history, the Libertarian Party noted.

A new FBI report says that 641,642 people were arrested on marijuana charges in 1996 — of which 85.2% were for mere possession. It also pushes to 2.1 million the total number of people arrested for marijuana charges under the Clinton administration. In 1996, according to statistics from the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML), that works out to one arrest every 49 seconds.

"And what have we gotten for this tidal wave of arrests?" asked Dasbach. The record is clear: More wasted money — and more money siphoned away from the prevention of real crime.

"American law enforcement spends \$7.5 billion to \$10 billion a year on marijuana prohibition," he said. "That's money that *can't* be spent arresting people who commit violent crimes. In a nation where a murder is committed every 25 minutes and a rape is committed every five minutes, wasting billions of dollars to arrest marijuana users is the real crime."

## Black Monday or the government: Which is worse?

Don't worry about the stock market plummeting 554 points — it's *nothing* compared to the damage that the government inflicts on your money on a regular basis, the Libertarian Party said.

"A 7% drop in the Dow Jones industrial average is chump change compared to the destructive power of inflation and the capital gains tax," said Dasbach. "Why? Because inflation — even at today's low levels — costs you the equivalent of a major stock market crash every few years, and capital gains taxes are like three stock market crashes when you make a profit or finally cash in your portfolio," he said.

Dasbach's comments came after this year's "Black Monday" — when the stock market plunged a heart-stopping 554 points. However, the devastation government wreaks on the value of your money through inflation and taxes is much worse, he said.

■ "According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the cumulative inflation rate from 1995 to the present day has been 7.6%. That means that over the past several years, your money lost *more* in value from inflation than it lost from the stock market's 7.2% drop in October."

■ Equally destructive, he said, are capital gains taxes, which kick in when you sell your stocks or mutual funds.

"If you're in a higher tax bracket, 20% of your profits are wiped out immediately by the capital gains tax. That's a financial loss equivalent to *three* stock market crashes — except your money disappears into the pockets of politicians."

# Deadlines loom for 1998 convention

Delegate allocation and committee appointment deadlines are getting closer

The countdown has begun to the 1998 National Libertarian Party Convention!

Just seven months remain until LP delegates from across the country gather in Washington, DC over the 4th of July weekend. And, of course, every convention means *deadlines*. Here are three of the most important:

### Deadline for Convention '98 Delegate Allocation: December 31, 1997.

■ **What:** This is the cut-off date for determining how many delegates each state gets to send to the convention. States are allotted one delegate for every 20 National LP members (or fraction thereof) in their state.

■ **Action:** Every state party should recruit as many National LP members as they can. The more National LP members a state party has, the more delegates they'll get to send to the convention — and the more influence that state has.

■ **Details:** Membership applications must be sent to the National HQ and postmarked no later than December 31, 1997.

■ **Afterwards:** National LP Secretary Gary Johnson will make the "official" count, and compute delegate allocations for each affiliate party. Notification of the membership totals and allocation totals will be sent to the Chair of each state party no later than January 31st, 1998.

### Deadline for Platform Committee: February 28, 1998

■ **What:** The top 10 states (the states with the most national LP members) each select one member of the Convention Platform Committee.

■ **Who:** As of October 27th, the top 10 states are: California, Pennsylvania, Texas, Florida, Michigan, New York, Ohio, Washington state, Illinois, and Georgia. (This ranking may change by the official December 31st cut-off date.)

■ **Action:** Each qualifying state party must send the name, mailing address, phone, and e-mail address of their Platform Committee representative to Secretary Gary Johnson and the National office no later than February 28, 1998.

■ **Details:** The Platform Committee has 20 members. Ten are selected by the states; 10 will be appointed by the National Committee at its December 13th & 14th meeting.

■ **Afterwards:** The Platform Committee confers by phone, mail, and/or e-mail to

## DECEMBER 31:

### Cut-off date for determining how many delegates each state gets.

discuss proposed changes to the party platform. The Committee then meets in Washington, DC on June 30th, 1998 to finalize their proposals, which are then reported to the Convention floor, debated, and voted upon.

### Deadline for Credentials Committee: June 2nd, 1998

■ **What:** Five states are each allowed to select one member of

the Convention Credentials Committee.

■ **Who:** The top five states

■ **Action:** Each qualifying state party must send the name, mailing address, phone, and e-mail address of the Credentials Committee representative to Secretary Gary Johnson and the National office no later than June 2nd, 1998.

■ **Details:** The Credentials Committee has 10 members. Five members are chosen by the National Committee; five are chosen by the states.

■ **Afterwards:** The Credentials Committee will meet in Washington, DC on Wednesday, June 30th, 1998. The Committee will certify the official delegates to the convention, and resolve any controversies over disputed delegations or individual delegates.

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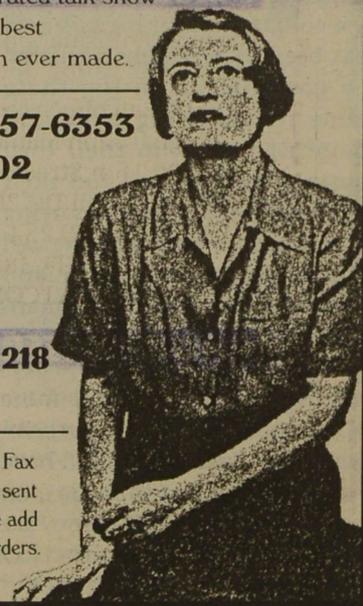
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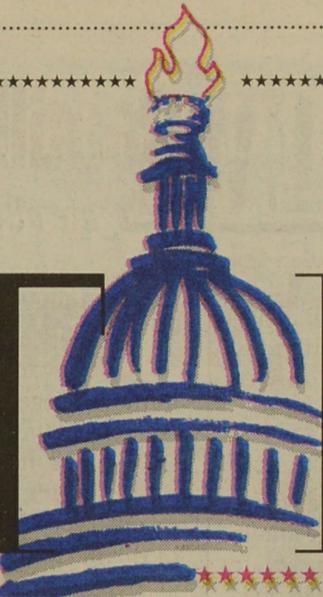
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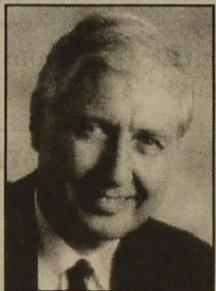
# VICTORY



## 1998 LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

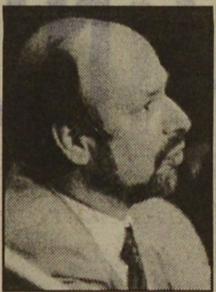
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**HARRY BROWNE**

The Libertarian Party's 1996 candidate for president, best-selling author of 10 books, public speaker, and world-renowned investment advisor.



**MICHAEL TANNER**

One of the nation's leading experts on privatizing Social Security, and Director of Health & Welfare Studies at the non-partisan Cato Institute.



**BARBARA GOUSHAW**

Founder and head of the Libertarian Campaign Managers Association in Michigan and campaign manager for Jon Coon's U.S. Senate race (1994).

### ◆ MORE INFORMATION?

For more information or questions about registration, please contact:

**The Balcom Group**  
Registration Management  
3600 16th Street, NW  
Washington DC 20010  
Phone: (202) 234-3880 or 3882  
Fax: (202) 234-3884  
E-mail: LPNATCONV@aol.com

### ◆ TO REGISTER . . .

Mail to: 1998 National LP Convention  
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Or call toll-free: (800) 722-5141  
Via e-mail: LPNATCONV@aol.com

## Sign up for the least expensive LP Convention of the decade!

**T**hat's right: The 1998 Convention is not only the most exciting and important Libertarian event of 1998 — it's also the least expensive convention of the entire decade!

We've made prices as low as possible, so more Libertarians can walk with us down "The Road to Victory" — the theme of Convention '98.

As a delegate, you will:

- Vote on the new LP Platform.
- Select the LP's leadership for the next two years.
- Hear a fascinating line-up of speakers, experts, and panels.
- Meet hundreds of fellow LP activists from all over the nation.

The Convention will be held in Washington, DC — which means that

it's an ideal vacation opportunity for your entire family.

Plan to be a part of the 1998 Libertarian National Convention — and part of the "Road to Victory"!

### Convention Prices

Register before January 31st, 1998 for the low introductory prices. (After that date, prices will increase.)



**Only \$259:** All panels, all speakers, floor pass, convention souvenir, program booklet, the Capital Steps entertainment, gala Convention Banquet, and all meals.



**Only \$199:** All of the above, but excludes meals.



**Only \$109:** Excludes Capital Steps, Convention Banquet, and meals. (Individual event tickets are available.)

### ◆ DATE

July 2 - 5, 1998. (Thursday - Sunday.)

### ◆ LOCATION

The Sheraton Washington Hotel, 2660 Woodley Road (near Connecticut Avenue), Washington DC.

### ◆ EVENTS

- Election of party officers
- Election of the National Committee
- LP Platform debate and changes
- Major speakers (to be announced)
- Huge vendor & exhibitor area
- Candidate training sessions
- Gala banquet & awards
- Independence Day fireworks
- The Capitol Steps

### ◆ LODGING

Special discount room prices of only \$105 per night (single or double) have been negotiated at the Sheraton Washington Hotel. Please call the hotel directly to make your reservation. Be certain to tell them that you are attending the LP's Convention '98. To be guaranteed the special group rate, make your reservation no later than May 29, 1998. (Room rate does not include DC's 13% sales tax or \$1.50 a night occupancy tax). For reservations, call: (800) 325-3535 or (202) 328-2000.

### ◆ CANCELLATION POLICY

Registration cancellations received before January 31st, 1998, will be accepted with no penalty. Cancellations received between February 3rd to May 1st will be refunded with a 50% processing fee. Cancellations received after May 2nd will not be refunded. All refunds issued after the Convention.

### ◆ SPECIAL NEEDS?

Please let us know if you have any special needs or other requirements. We should know about:

- Visual       Mobility
- Hearing       Dietary
- Other (Please be specific)

Please send any such information with your registration form.

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■ Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.

# AFFILIATE NEWS

## Hurtful comments & 'poll' vaults

### ■ Alabama

Are Democrats afraid to debate Libertarians? That's the question Alabama University Libertarians are asking these days.

**Scott Sebelius**, chairman of the AU Libertarians, and Lee County LP Chairman **Scott Kjar** were operating an Operation Politically Homeless booth at the college's Organization Day on October 14th when they decided to invite campus Democrats and Republicans to a joint debate.

The Republicans hesitated, then agreed. But the Democrats expressed fear that "someone's feelings might get hurt during a debate" — and wanted to write rules to prevent anyone from making "hurtful comments."

"I think both parties are afraid of the trouncing they'll take at the hands of the LP," said Kjar.

### ■ California

Free-lance Libertarian writer **Juan Ros** recently committed a "crime," then confessed to it in print. The reason? Ros wanted to use civil disobedience to draw attention to a new Los Angeles law that requires licenses for home-based businesses.

In a September 14th column for the *Daily News* (circulation: 200,000), Ros lambasted the city's Home Occupation Ordinance, which requires home-based businesses to buy a \$25 permit and pay an earnings tax.

In the column, Ros wrote, "I am an outlaw because I do not have the city's permission to conduct my home-based business." He went on to demand that the city abolish the ordinance and "leave writers and other home-based businesses alone to generate income and make a profit."

### ■ Florida

A former Republican mayor has become the newest member of the Libertarian Party of Florida's Executive Committee. **Carl Strang**, who was the GOP mayor of Winter Haven from 1987 to 1988, joined the LP after watching the party's 1996 convention on television. Strang was elected to Florida's Executive Committee by unanimous vote at a meeting in Melbourne on October 25, said State Chair **Nick Dunbar**.

"Come on in, the water's just fine," said Strang as he encouraged other disenfranchised Repub-



### A "War" against freedom

"The Drug War is not about drugs, it's about war" — that's the message delivered to about 750 attendees of the Harvest Festival in Cincinnati by LP activist Donald Gallick.

The October 4th festival — sponsored by NORML and Americans for Compassionate Use — promoted hemp products and criticized the drug war, said Gallick, who told the receptive crowd that the War on Drugs is "the first war carried out against U.S. citizens. It's a war against freedom."

licans to join the LP. "I've had my fill of the Republicans' hypocritical talk about less government and lower taxes, and I'm happy to have found a political home in the Libertarian Party."

### ■ Massachusetts

The state LP has kicked off a new advertising campaign that targets the members of Libertarian-leaning organizations.

The first series of ads were placed in the September newsletter of the Small Property Owners Association, a group credited with turning back rent control in Massachusetts. The ad, which pictures Lady Liberty holding aloft the torch, is headlined, "All Those Opposed to Rent Control, Please Raise Your Hand."

"Now that we've told their membership that we hate rent

control, too, the next step is to turn the ads into new members," said **Elias Israel**, Executive Director of the Massachusetts LP. "We're going to send all 1,000 of them a solicitation to join the LP — the only party that truly does defend their property rights."

### ■ Michigan

Does the state control your land if a river runs through it?

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is attempting to do just that, so Boon Township Libertarians unanimously passed a resolution in August opposing the land grab.

The state wants to designate the Manistee River system a "natural river," which would allow bureaucrats to control all private property within 400 feet of each bank.

"This designation is in direct opposition to our nation's longstanding tradition of private property rights," said **John Willis**, chairman of the Midwest Michigan LP. "It's just one more way for the state to impose its will on property owners."

### ■ Minnesota

LP members have "gone to bat" again to battle the use of tax money to build a new baseball stadium for the Minnesota Twins baseball team.

State chair **Charles Test** and LP City Council candidate **Bob Odden** held a news conference in Minneapolis on October 23, at which seven groups joined together to denounce the plan.

"The Twins' ownership is getting big government to pinch hit for them," Test said. "A city that is failing to keep our streets safe has no business spending our money on entertainment."

### ■ Missouri

An elected Libertarian is raising the roof over a city government's plan to raze private property.

A group of 300 supporters cheered Libertarian **Brad Spangler**, a North Kansas City Councilman, as he denounced the TIF (Tax Increment Financing) program, which allows the city to declare property "blighted" on the grounds that a new development would generate more tax revenue.

Spangler and the residents were angry about the city's plan to knock down a low-income

apartment complex and spend \$61 million in tax money to build more expensive housing on the property.

"Under TIF, the new owners generate profits from their tax-subsidized investments, while the former owners must take whatever the government decided to give them for their property," Spangler said.

### ■ Oregon

The state LP has launched a major outreach drive designed to convert registered Libertarians into active party members. The effort began with a 1,000-piece test mailing in September.

"If we expect to succeed as a political movement, we have to expand our base," said **Michael H. Wilson**, LP membership director. "That's where we'll find our activists, candidates, and contributors."

Fortunately, that target market is growing rapidly: The number of registered Libertarians in Oregon jumped 5% — to 10,572 — in the last six months.

### ■ South Carolina

The state LP is sponsoring an essay contest — complete with a \$500 first prize — open to every high school student in the state.

Students will be asked, "What does the phrase 'Don't Tread on Me' mean to you?"

The question refers to the phrase on the Gadsden Flag, which state resident Christopher Gadsden presented to the First Continental Congress in 1776.

"The essay contest will be an opportunity for high school students to express their love of country and liberty — and to win some cash by doing so," said state chair **Rodney Travis**.

### ■ Texas

A law that allows the city of Houston to demolish private property was ruled unconstitutional in August — but that didn't stop the city from enforcing it.

So Harris County Libertarians joined with 12 other groups at a Sept. 2 press conference to protest the CURB law (Compre-

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for all libertarians!"

— Jim Lewis, 1984 LP vice-presidential candidate

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— Vince Miller, President, International Society of Individual Liberty

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hensive Urban Rehabilitation and Building Minimum Standards). Two newspaper reporters and one TV station attended.

The LP pointed out that the city's intransigence already has cost taxpayers \$721,500 to compensate property owners victimized by the law and pay their legal fees.

"If you think an IRS audit is bad, you haven't run afoul of the CURB ordinance," said Harris County LP chair **John Kormylo**.

■ **Virginia**

Libertarians have launched a lobbying campaign to help encourage ballot access reform.

After a state legislator introduced three bills to ease ballot access requirements, LP member **Shelley Tamres** created a lobbying information packet and mailed it to every LP member in the state to try to get the legislation passed.

"We have a wonderful opportunity with these bills," Tamres said. "It's up to us to seek out those legislators for whom fairness is more important than party politics and encourage them to support this legislation."

■ **Virginia**

The state LP has unveiled an innovative outreach idea: Operation Poll Vault, which targeted

Election Day voters as they left the polls.

Libertarians handed out eye-catching flyers that ask: "OK, you have voted, but where do you really stand?" It then invited voters to take the World's Smallest Political Quiz, and included a form for more information.

Prizes are awarded to whoever handed out the most flyers, starting with free admission to the next state LP convention.

"We're hoping this plan will help us build membership and vault into a better future!" said county chair **Brad Barnhill**.

■ **West Virginia**

The LP fought vigorously against a constitutional amendment to allow the state government to invest in the stock market — but fell short in the end.

"The good track record of stocks made all the voters forget about the poor track record of government," said state chair **John K. Brown** — and Amendment One passed, 78% to 22%, on September 27th.

Nevertheless, the campaign generated lots of positive press coverage for the LP, said Brown: "Despite the amendment's passage, the Libertarian Party has made the privatization of state retirement plans a topic among the public."

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**But we need your help to do it.**

Make a stand for freedom!  
 Join the Libertarian Party today!

**Libertarian Party Membership**

**YES! Sign me up as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party!**

I have enclosed \$25. I'll receive 12 issues of your monthly party newspaper, LP News, and a Libertarian Party membership card.

**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

■ **Subscription**

Enclosed is \$25. I'd rather not join the party just yet. Instead, please sign me up for a one-year subscription to the party newspaper, LP News (12 monthly issues).

■ **Name & Address**

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

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Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax-deductible.

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To help you in your important work for liberty, I have enclosed an additional donation of:

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# LITERATURE BUTTONS & MUCH MORE!



## Libertarian Party Literature

■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. "Reader friendly" LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

■ **1996 Libertarian Party Platform.** 24 pages; 2-color (red & black). "Official" party positions (updated at the 1996 National Convention) on individual rights, the economy, taxation, poverty, & other political issues. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$50 per 100

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting outreach geared specifically for gun owners, explaining our 100% pro-gun position. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why (and how) government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95 (includes \$2 s/h charge)

■ **Enough Is Enough/Vote Libertarian Yard Sign.** Great for campaigns — or anytime! 2-color (red & blue) 24" x 18," on sturdy foam-board. **Cost:** \$8.00 each

■ **LP Fact Sheets:** 2-page LP history (political highlights 1971-1996) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy. **Cost:** \$1 each

## Miscellaneous Items

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

## Bumperstickers

**Cost:** \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** Back in stock! (Blue & red — big 15" x 3.25" size)

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

■ **Vote Libertarian/800-682-1776** (Blue & white.)

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

## Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each

## Tools for Campaigning

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP ads. **Cost:** \$3 for set

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (Not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

■ **Buttons** (**Cost:** \$1 each or 75¢ for 5 or more)

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

# NEWS FLASH: The 1998 Elections Started Today!

## The 1997 elections are history...

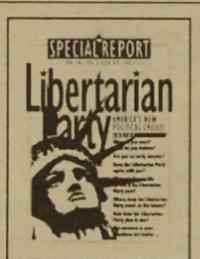
**A**nd the 1998 elections have officially begun! Yes, we need to start concentrating on the 1998 elections today. We need to start vigorously recruiting new members right now — so we will have even more resources, more volunteers, and more money to blast into the 1998 elections, and make an even bigger impact.

That's why the party's premier goal is to continue the dramatic increase in membership that we've experienced over the past three years. And if you provide the outreach efforts, we'll provide the literature.

We offer for sale a wide array of colorful, lively, and hard-hitting brochures, flyers, booklets, bumperstickers, signs, and books — all designed to turn prospects into members. So, whether you're running our outreach booth, mounting a direct mail recruiting effort, or gathering prospect names as you run for local office, we've got the persuasive, intellectual ammunition you need to "close the sale" — and sign up a new Libertarian Party member.

Remember: We don't have a minute to waste. Our success in 1998 will depend on what we do right now to prepare.

Will you do your part?

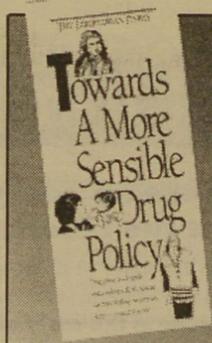


■ **LP Special Report.** 20 pages, blue & black ink. Comprehensive introduction to the LP, detailing how a Libertarian society would benefit the reader—and explaining the factors that will lead to our eventual victory. With membership form/envelope. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$50 for 100

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



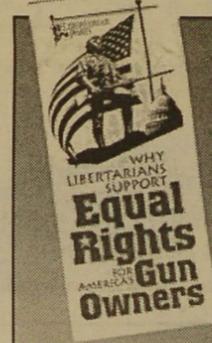
■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs. **★ Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



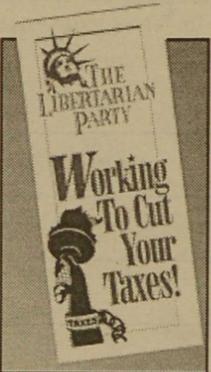
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■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs. **★ Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



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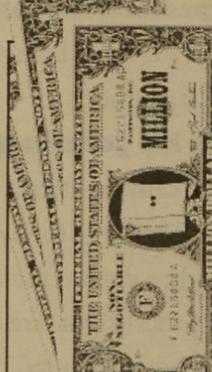
■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). Outlines how the Libertarian Party would drastically reduce taxes and government spending. **★ Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100



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# Pennsylvania LP counterattacks with new ballot access legislation

After a "near-death experience" with ballot access earlier this year — because of a bill that would have tripled the state's already restrictive election laws — Libertarians in Pennsylvania decided to fight back.

So they formed an alliance of third parties, got a Republican legislator to sponsor a bill that rolls back ballot access barriers, and are mounting a lobbying of-fense to try to get it passed.

The state LP organized a press conference in the state capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg on September 23rd to introduce the "Voters Choice Act," which would lower petition require-

**UNFAIR LAWS**  
make people  
think "the game  
is fixed."

ments for statewide ballot access to one-tenth of 1%, down from the current 2%, and make it easier to maintain ballot status.

Libertarians stood side by side with leaders of five other parties — Greens, Constitution, Reform, Prohibition, and No Pay

Raise — to urge reform of state ballot access laws, which encourage "mistrust and apathy," according to LP member Ken Krawchuk.

Laws which require third parties to collect 12 times as many signatures as the two older parties "encourage the very real impression that the game is fixed," said Krawchuk. "It encourages politics as usual."

State Rep. Todd Platts (R-York), who sponsored the legislation, said, "In the private sector, what do we do when we want a good product? We promote competition. Why should it be different in the electoral process?"

### Public hearing

Platts filed his bill in October, and hopes to have a public hearing on the bill in January.

State Chair Tim Moir acknowledged that the chances of passing the bill are only "fair," but said, "When we win, the new ballot access requirements will allow us to spend less time collecting signatures, and more of our resources promoting our candidates and ideas."

One advantage the legislation has, he said, is widespread media support for fair elections.

"While the media are not always friendly to the message of the LP, on the issue of ballot access, they are unanimously on our side," he said.

# HowTo

## Exploit all your local media opportunities

By James W. Harris

When you're trying to get the word "Libertarian" mentioned in the newspaper, it's easy to overlook some of your less obvious opportunities. For example, have you considered . . .

■ **Local celebrity/gossip columns.** The *Atlanta Journal Constitution* has a gossipy, light-spirited feature called "Peach Buzz" in its entertainment section. Sending in an intriguing or humorous anecdote about a local Libertarian candidate or personality has led to positive Libertarian coverage several times.

■ **Other letters sections.** In addition to the standard editorial page letters section, many large papers have letter columns in other sections. Because they receive fewer submissions, they can be easier to get into. Here are some examples:

- **A book review section** (perfect for letters commenting on reviews of books dealing with Libertarian issues).
- **Business sections** (the possibilities are endless).
- **Religious pages** (discussions of the role of government in economics, charity, and so on).
- **A technology section** (argue against Internet censorship, recommend the party's Web site, etc.).

In addition, large metropolitan newspapers often have inserts that go to particular communities. These have also their own letter sections and announcement sections. Our local sports page has its own letter section, too, but I've yet to find a way to get a Libertarian theme into "Voice of the Fans." (Ah — just thought of one! How about a mention of the Heartland Institute's great study showing the detrimental economic effects of tax-funded sports arenas?)

■ **Some other, more general suggestions: Expand your range.** When looking for publicity opportunities, don't forget to use *all* your local papers. In a metropolitan area, there may be a dozen or more papers that you're not aware of.

Check the free racks in bookstores, coffee shops, health food stores, and the like. You'll find neighborhood newspapers, city entertainment weeklies, newspapers dealing with health and environmental issues, gay publications, religious publications, ethnic newspapers . . . the list seems endless. I could easily name a dozen different weekly or monthly papers in the Atlanta metro area.

These are perfect for appropriate letters, press releases, meeting announcements, and the like. Often they are hungry for news. And they are targeted at specific audiences, so you can tailor your message very precisely.

■ **Also, remember to organize!** Some newspapers, especially smaller ones, will publish letters just about as frequently as you can write them. Others, however, are tougher to get into. Plus, you don't want your newspaper to think of you as "that lone Libertarian." So get members of your local Libertarian organization together. Set reasonable but *ambitious* goals. Put together a team of people whose job is to regularly get letters, press releases, and the like in print. Do it right, do it with determination (and discretion), and the Libertarian voice will be a regular part of your community newspaper.

■ **One more tip: If at first you don't succeed . . .** I've had lots of letters, comments, and press releases see print by using the above methods. But if you phone in or send your letter and it's not printed, don't give up, and don't decide the paper is biased against you. Just try again. This month our local paper got a great letter from me . . . which they decided, for some reason, not to print. Fine. I'll send it somewhere else, and they'll get another one from me soon.

**Editor's note:** Reprinted from the Winter 1997 issue of *The Liberator*, a publication of the non-partisan Advocates for Self-Government. For information, call (800) 932-1776.

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# From THE DIRECTOR

## The positive influence of our LP candidates

Tip O'Neill said, "All politics is local." The Libertarian corollary is "All politics is *individual*." We at the National Headquarters can create a certain atmosphere in the Party. We can issue press releases and generate media coverage. We can recruit (hopefully) tens or hundreds of thousands of new members in the next few years. But it is those individual members, through their campaigns and political action, who will be the real instruments of change.

In a sense, the National Party exists to enable the grassroots efforts of our members, candidates, and activists. *LP News* is filled with our members' local success stories that show them turning our principles into *action*, and action into *change*. Whether it's fighting taxes or curfews, working to end the war on drugs, or lobbying for better ballot access, the candidates and activists of the LP are giving us all a little more liberty.

The biggest reason we are having more of an effect on the local level is that we are bigger at the national level. Your national leadership is committed to the strategy of membership growth to bring about long-term success. We're convinced that the best way to have a lot more individual action is to recruit a lot more individuals. More members means more candidates, activists, donors — and success stories from elected Libertarians.

What can you do, as one individual, to help us grow the party's membership and influence? Have you considered being a candidate for the Libertarian Party? Running for office is the single most effective means for one person to promote party growth. Why? Because it multiplies your personal efforts to such a degree. Here's how:

- Contributions to your campaign will bring money into LP activism that wouldn't otherwise be there.

- Media and issue organizations will seek you out for your opinions.

- Past experience shows that the more candidates a state party runs, the higher the average vote totals for all of our candidates.

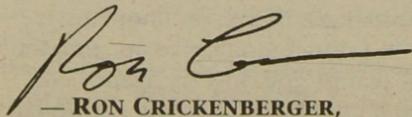
- Campaigns are where the vast majority of people are introduced to the Libertarian philosophy, and as such are the perfect vehicles for recruiting new members.

But the most important reason for you to run as a Libertarian candidate doesn't really have anything to do with building the party. It's the real reason the party exists at all — to create a free society.

A Libertarian Party that is many times larger than we are now is only a means to an end. And a Libertarian Party that elects many more public officials than we have now is important, but it's not the goal.

The goal is a *free country* for us and our children to live in.

So the real reason for you to be a candidate for the Libertarian Party is so you can say, "I made a difference."



— RON CRICKENBERGER,  
LP National Director

PS: Want more information on being a Libertarian candidate? Call me at 202-333-0008, Ext. 227, and I'll send you a free candidate support package.



Ron Crickenberger  
LP National Director

# Environmental protection through private property & private action

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

By Jonathan Adler

Over 100,000 bison roam the Western plains today. Bison, also known as buffalo, populate ranches, parks, and wilderness, areas throughout Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, and other states, including Yellowstone National Park. But it was not always that way.

Around the turn of the century, there were only 25 bison in Yellowstone, as open-access poaching nearly wiped out the entire herd. Fortunately, private individuals such as William Hornaday, founder of the American Bison Association, ensured that the majestic buffalo survived. Hornaday and others saw to it that bison were bred, fed, and protected from hunters.

Thus, while bison were dwindling in Yellowstone, they were prospering on private lands — so much so that the herds in Yellowstone today are mostly descended from private herds. Nationwide, over 90% live on private land.

The recovery of the American bison is a testament to the power of *private* conservation. Were it not for the care that private owners had for the bison, it is possible that the symbol of the Buffalo Bills would be just a memory.

Bison were threatened by what ecologist Garrett Hardin termed the "tragedy of the commons." Because bison were unowned — they lived in an open-access commons — they were unprotected. Owners protect their resources because they receive the benefits of that protection. In the commons, however, there is no incentive to protect a resource because you cannot be sure that you will receive the benefit.

Unlike the commons, ownership encourages stewardship. As Hardin noted, the tragedy of the commons "is averted by private property." If you own something, you have an interest in ensuring that it is protected and that its value is maintained.

Thus oyster fishers in Willapa Bay, Washington, are fierce protectors of local water quality because their livelihoods (their oyster beds) are at stake.

They also invest in local ecological restoration and protection to ensure that they have oysters in the future.

Not only must landowners take care in their own actions, in many cases they must defend their land against the intrusions of others. In the United States, this is typically done through the enforcement of environmental regulations. In parts of Canada and the United Kingdom, however, water quality is protected through common-law protections of private property.

The English Anglers Cooperative Association defends fishing rights by suing upstream polluters who damage fish stocks. The basis of the litigation is not failure to comply with an arcane permitting requirement, but the simple fact that upstream pollution hurts downstream fish. Salmon in Scotland and New Brunswick are often protected in the same way.



## THE TRAGEDY of the Commons is averted by private property.

Landowners have a strong incentive to maintain the value of their land for themselves (as well as for others). Even if I don't mind living in a run-down home, as a homeowner I have a strong incentive to keep it well-maintained so that its resale value does not fall.

There are more trees in America's forests today than at any other point in this century, largely because of the incentives private ownership provides. For every tree that forest owners or timber companies cut down, several more are planted. Of course, some of this planting does occur on tree farms, but the planting of trees for future use relieves economic pressures to chop down old-growth forests or trees in wilderness areas.

Timber companies replant on their own land — as opposed to the national forests — not be-

# LIBERTARIAN Solutions

cause they want to be "environmentally correct" but because it often makes sound business sense. Planting trees can be a good economic investment, and can help companies in other ways as well. Some forest owners have discovered that at relatively little cost, forests can be managed for camping, hiking, bird-watching, and recreation.

Of course, private stewardship does not require that one always act in pursuit of profit. The principle of private ownership enables conservation groups and other landowners to purchase and protect vital habitats.

It has also allowed individuals such as David Bamberger, former CEO of Church's Fried Chicken, to protect foreign species on the verge of extinction. Bamberger and the other members of the Exotic Wildlife Association own more scimitar-horned oryx on their private lands in the United States than exist in its native African range.

"Private ownership includes not only hunting preserves, commercial bird breeders, and safari parks, it also includes wildlife sanctuaries, Audubon Society refuges, and a multitude of private conservation projects," observes Robert J. Smith, senior scholar with the Center for Private Conservation. This is the principle that motivated the founders of America's great conservation organizations.

America's environmental movement was founded on the idea that private conservation was the key to protecting wildlife and natural resources for ourselves and our future. Environmental groups were founded to purchase and protect habitat directly. Since then, many groups have strayed off course, stressing *political* solutions to environmental problems. This has produced mixed results, leading to a rediscovery of the importance of private ownership in environmental protection. With a greater reliance on private property, America's proud conservation tradition can be reborn.

■ Jonathan Adler is director of Environmental Studies at the non-partisan Competitive Enterprise Institute in Washington, DC.

# THE MAILBOX

## Nosy Questions

While I fully support the Libertarian Party initiative to boycott the race questions on the next census (*LP News*, November 1997) I can't help but wonder why no one has yet asked you why you're stopping there. The constitution authorizes the census *strictly* for the purpose of apportioning representation. It provides no authority for any of the rest of the nosy questions it imperiously commands us to answer.

I have not provided any information but my name and address on each of the last two forms I completed. In 1990 I even issued a press release stating my intentions as part of my campaign for congress that year.

The government has deprived me of further entertainment by failing to take any action against me on either occasion. I will follow the same policy in 2000. I invite all other Libertarians to join me.

**JUNE GENIS**  
Woodside, California

## The cost of taxes

The article, "Why do cars and pizza cost so much?" (*LP News*, October 1997) was very good, but it only explained half of the story.

Consider the \$17,000 Ford Taurus you used as an example. The car cost \$9,350 to build. So there are \$7,650 of taxes included in the price one pays for the car. But we should also con-

sider that the car is bought with *after-tax* dollars. How many dollars does a person have to earn to get the \$17,000 after-tax dollars necessary to buy the car?

If a person is buying this car, they are probably in the 28% income tax bracket. They also pay about 7.5% of their income for Social Security tax. If they live in a state that has an income tax they may pay another 10% to the state. So 45.5% of every dollar

**THE CONSTITUTION provides no authority for the rest of the nosy questions.**

they earn is taken from them before they get any money to spend. They only get 54.5¢ from each dollar earned. So they must earn  $(1/.545) = \$1.83$  to get a dollar to spend. Thus they have to earn  $1.83 \times 17,000 = \$31,110$ . Taxes have increased the cost of the car by a factor of  $(31,110/9,350) = 3.3!$

I have used some approximations so many numbers are not precise, but I think you get the point. This concept can be applied to everything one purchases and further explains our diminishing standard of living.

**DWIGHT BARLOW**  
Scappoose, Oregon

## Liberty Keepers

Recently, over one million Promise Keepers from all over the nation congregated in Washington. The exposure this group or religion got from the media was fantastic.

Why not have a Libertarian/

Freedom rally some place? Even if we got only one quarter of the exposure the Promise Keepers got, think of the tremendous extra awareness our party could get . . . for free!

**WILLIAM R. DISCIPIO, SR.**  
Hampstead, New Hampshire

## Matching Funds

I am impressed by Murray Sabrin's persistence in pursuing the governorship of New Jersey. Running for office, especially outside the corrupt Republicrat power structure, must be frustrating and expensive. I am sorry to read, however, that he has succumbed to the siren call of the government money pot.

I read his position statement on matching funds (*LP News*, October 1997), and am unswayed. Although I can understand his being tempted to accept the funds, the following points deflate his arguments:

1. The money is stolen through taxation. Is accepting stolen money part of the agenda of principle?
2. Yes, the "playing field" is rough, not level. A playing field can *only* be leveled through the use of force. To me, true freedom involves overcoming bumpy obstacles, *ethically*. How do you explain to voters suspending your ethics in order to get power, then "turning on" the principles once there?
3. Just because the party says something is an option, doesn't make it ethical.

Sorry if this statement complicates matters for Mr. Sabrin; ethics tend to make some things harder to do, but more worthy of doing.

**DAN KUTTNER**  
Austin, Texas

## NRA & Matching funds

I would like to comment on several letters in the November

edition of *LP News*.

Howard Wilson's letter about NRA endorsement of Libertarians states: "The Libertarians endorsed may not win, but if they are the only ones who return or answer the questionnaire, they will be endorsed."

I presume that he means answer favorably. However, it is difficult for a Libertarian to answer a questionnaire that has only been sent to Democrats and Republicans, as was done in New Hampshire, in 1994. In that year, I ran for Representative in New Hampshire, and was not sent a questionnaire by the NRA, nor were any other Libertarian candidates. Also, when I called NRA headquarters seeking information and left a message on voice mail, my call was not returned.

Regarding Greg Dirasian's letter, in which he states that he is not aware that the LP ever gave

candidates a choice regarding accepting matching funds: I submit that by *not* establishing a policy on this matter, the LP *has* given the candidates a choice!

**WILLIAM J. PEARSALL**  
Richmond, New Hampshire

## Taking out the competition

In the article about Miriam Luce's 4-year effort to privatize liquor in New Hampshire (*LP News*, October 1997), you state that, to this day, no one is quite sure why the Republican governor picked Luce. You speculate that he may have done it to "tweak" the Democrats, or to begin the process of privatizing the state's liquor business, although neither explanation seems very satisfying.

I think a more likely explanation is that he did it for the same reason President Bush was

See **MAILBOX** Page 18

# THE PULSE

## Pulse deadlines extended

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Because of Post Office delays in the delivery of *LP News*, we're going to extend the deadline for each Pulse question by about three weeks. That way, more Libertarians will have an opportunity to respond. Instead of the deadline being the 10th of the month after *LP News* is mailed, it will be the 5th of the *following* month. So, you're getting extra time to answer last month's question — and plenty of time to answer the new Pulse question. New deadlines are given below.

### January Pulse Question of the Month

Last month marked the 40th anniversary of the publication of Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* — considered to be one of the most influential books on the modern libertarian movement. **QUESTION:** What *one* book most influenced your journey to libertarianism? And why? (Please keep your answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **NEW DEADLINE:** December 5th, 1997

### February Pulse Question of the Month

There has been considerable discussion among Libertarians about the wisdom and appropriateness of the Murray Sabrin for Governor campaign accepting New Jersey state matching funds. Some argue that it was "un-Libertarian," while others argue it's necessary to "level the playing field." **QUESTION:** Should Libertarian Party candidates accept matching funds — state or federal? If yes, why? If not, why not? (Please keep your answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** January 5th, 1998

### Pulse Entry Guidelines

**Who can enter?** Any LP member or subscriber to *LP News*. Include your name; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month, please. Send responses:

■ Via e-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include the word "Pulse" in the subject line.)

■ Via fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse)

■ Via mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: *LP News*/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

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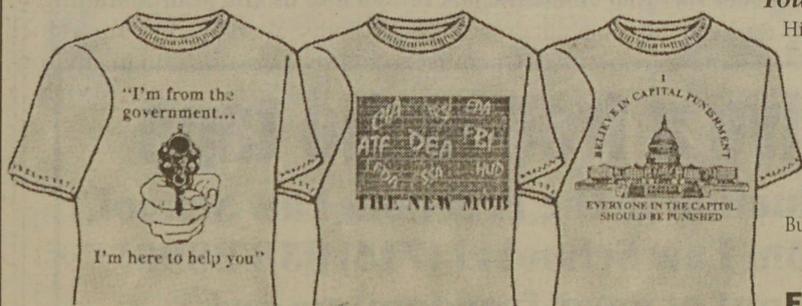
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# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 17

considering Mario Cuomo for a Supreme Court nomination a few years back, or why President Clinton nominated William Weld as Ambassador to Mexico recently: Governor Merrill just wanted her out of the way. Her powerful showing in the 1990 and 1992 gubernatorial races may have convinced Merrill that she would be less of a threat to him and the state Republican Party as Liquor Commissioner than as a direct competitor for the Governor's seat.

Perhaps Miriam has done all she can within the bureaucracy, and now it's time for her to shake up the system again!

**BLAY TARNOFF**

White Plains, New York

## Stop punishing victims

As we approach the end of the third year of the Congress being dominated by the Republican branch of the Big Government Party, it has become painfully clear that a swift restoration of our constitutional rights is not on their agenda.

Instead, many Republicans have started a drive to do away with even more, such as their drive to disarm all law-abiding Americans. The Republicans have come up with bills to grab guns that would only make the Democratic gun grabbers like Kennedy, Schumer, Lautenberg and Moynihan drool with envy.

The only bright spot on this issue I can find comes from Rep. Roscoe Bartlett and his H.R. 27, Citizens Self-Defense Act. This would give citizens the right to defend themselves in a nation where crime is out of control.

Many probably think we already have this right, but in practice many are being prosecuted for doing just that. Many who defend themselves against lawless thugs then have to defend themselves in the courts. H.R. 27 would put a stop to the practice of punishing victims of crime.

**JAMES A. CHRISTEN**

Huron, South Dakota

## Cyberthreats?

The report recently released by the President's Commission on Critical Infrastructure Protection (<http://www.pccip.gov>) is loaded with lots of "Cyber Threats," and "Cyber Attacks."

The hysterical, and sometimes Orwellian, tones of the report's summary are unmistakable . . .

■ National defense is not just about government anymore, and economic security is not just about business.

■ Today, the right command sent over a network . . . could be just as effective as a backpack full of explosives, and the perpetra-

tor would be harder to identify and apprehend.

■ The rapid growth of a computer-literate population ensures that increasing millions of people possess the skills necessary to consider such an attack.

■ . . . the resources necessary to conduct a cyber attack are now commonplace.

■ (Cyber attacks) can be invisibly reconnoitered, clandestinely rehearsed, and then mounted in a matter of minutes or even seconds without revealing the identity and location of the attacker.

And my favorite . . .

■ A personal computer and a simple telephone connection to an Internet Service Provider anywhere in the world are enough to cause a great deal of harm. (And so is a fork stuck in a socket.)

So now we have millions of hackers sitting at home, with one eye on their mouse and the other on the new Baywatch Babe, ready to cripple the nation at a moment's notice? I don't think so. Most of us would be happy if our e-mail worked this week.

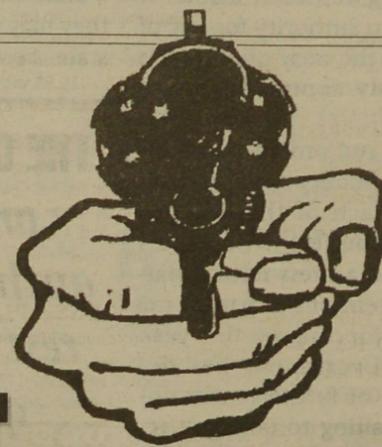
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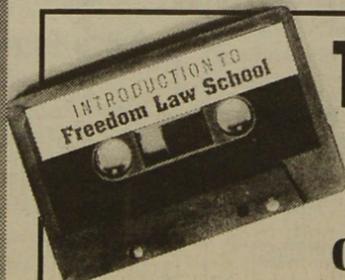
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—Karl Williamson, Chair LP of Seminole Co., FL

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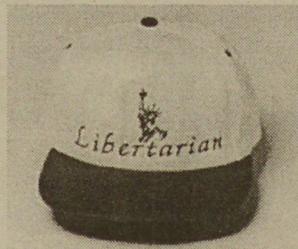
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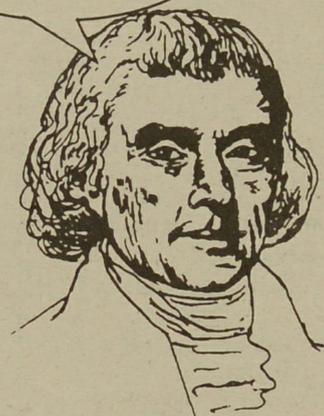
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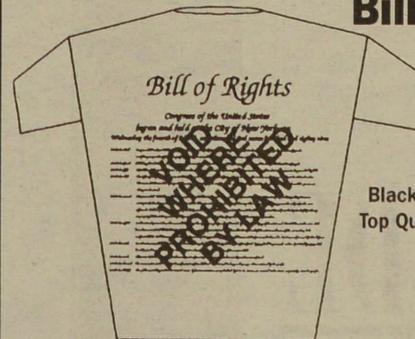
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## December 13-14, 1997

**Libertarian National Committee Meeting**, Washington DC. For information call 202-333-0085.

## January 10 & 11, 1998

**Success '97**, Atlanta, GA. For information call 202-333-0085.

## February 14-16, 1998

**California LP Convention**, Hyatt Regency-Los Angeles Hotel, Los Angeles, CA. Speakers include LP National Chairman Steve Dasbach, Radio talk show host Gene Burns, Dr. John Hospers, and 1980 LP presidential candidate Ed Clark. For information call (562) 428-8113. Or via e-mail: LauraMcf@aol.com

## February 20-22, 1998

**Pennsylvania LP Convention**, Marriott Hotel, Harrisburg, PA. For information, call (717) 292-6028

## February 21-22, 1998

**Florida LP State Convention & Business Meeting**, Orlando North Hilton Hotel, Orlando, FL. For more information, contact Ralph Swanson at (800) 478-0555.

## February 21, 1998

**Massachusetts LP Convention**, Sheraton Needham Hotel, Needham, MA. Speakers include radio talk show host David Brudnoy, Michael Cloud, and Barbara Anderson of Citizens for

Limited Taxation & Government. For more information, call (888) 672-6698 (from New England or New York), or (781) 273-3760 (outside the region).

## March 21, 1998

**Tennessee LP Convention**, Wyndham Garden Hotel, Nashville, TN. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger and 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne. For information call (615) 773-7090.

## April 24-26, 1998

**Ohio LP Convention**, Plaza Hotel in downtown Akron, OH. Speakers to be announced. For more information, contact Chet Sutherland at (330) 928-3256 or Bob Neumann at (330) 666-5159.

## May 2-3, 1998

**Washington state LP Convention**, Seattle, WA. Speakers include Harry Browne and Michael Cloud.

## May 9, 1998

**West Virginia LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Charleston House, Charleston WV. Speakers include National LP Chairman Steve Dasbach, author Mary Ruwart, and Wallace Johnson. For information call John Brown at (800) 950-3421.

## July 2-5, 1998

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

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# INSIDE

■ **PAGE 1** *Libertarians score 22 victories!*

■ **PAGE 1** *Curfew protest lands LP member on MTV*

■ **PAGE 3** *The Murray Sabrin campaign: Final vote tally*



# FIRST WORD

“Democrats think government knows how to spend a third of your income. Republicans think government knows best how folks ought to conduct their personal lives. Libertarians, with influence beyond their numbers, will have none of that. Moving the political debate their way would benefit the nation.”  
— MIKE MCNEILL, *The Minden Press-Herald* (Louisiana), September 4, 1997

“A big part of the Libertarian philosophy involves freedom — from intrusive government, freedom from burdensome taxes, and freedom to control your own choices. Hmmm, sounds good to me.”  
— JON PAUL POTTS, *The Watertown Tab & Press* (Massachusetts), June 26, 1997

“Chalk up a point to Libertarians for injecting [a] dose of common sense into a political dialogue that too often lacks it.”  
— *The Indianapolis News* (Indiana), September 26, 1997