

**3** LP campaigns to let weapons ban expire

**4** Dean Cameron says he's a libertarian

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■ San Francisco Libertarians show their distaste for taxes at a rally on April 15 just outside the Montgomery Street BART/Muni station. Shown here (l-r): Kelly Simpson, mayoral candidate Michael Denny, Dr. Michael Edelstein, and Eric Brenner.

## Libertarians rally on Tax Day 2003

Carrying signs, handing out literature, and conducting media interviews, Libertarians across the USA used Tax Day 2003 as an opportunity to offer last-minute taxpayers a vision of an America without an income tax.

On April 15, Libertarians conducted anti-tax protests and rallies in more than two dozen states — from Pennsylvania to California, and from New Hampshire to Georgia.

### Very patriotic

"Tax protests are an American tradition and very patriotic," said Hamilton County LP Vice Chair William Bolen in Chattanooga, Tennessee. "We want taxpayers to know that Libertarians offer a small-government alternative to what we currently have."

Tax Day activities included handing out Libertarian literature to beleaguered taxpayers at jam-packed Post Offices, staging rallies complete with signs and costumes, and explaining to journalists why the Libertarian Party wants to reduce and eliminate the high taxes that plague American families.

As in previous years, LP activists handed out billions of dollars worth of "million dollar bills" — a faux currency note illustrating the fact that the federal government spends \$1 million every three and one-half seconds. It also notes that the Libertarian Party is the only political party working to reduce that amount.

In most locations, Libertarians said they got friendly — and sometimes ambiguous — comments from last-minute taxpayers.

"Several of the supportive comments were of the type, 'It's so refreshing to see protesters who aren't Marxists,'" said San Francisco LP Vice Chair Rob Power.

Highlights from tax protests around the country included:

■ **New York:** The Rochester County LP showed up at the Main Post office on Jefferson Road in Henrietta with a message for taxpayers.

"We are trying to point out to people that their taxes are too high — on the day they ought to know better than any other," said Steve Healey, chair of the county chapter.

Healey also proposed a course of

See **TAX DAY** Page 14

## LP cheers court decision on campaign finance law

By Bill Winter  
LP NEWS EDITOR

The Libertarian Party is calling a federal court ruling that struck down a number of provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) a "partial victory" for minor parties.

However, the May 2 decision also let stand several regulations that are unconstitutional, will harm the Libertarian Party, and restrict political speech, said LP Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"This ruling is an important but partial victory for third parties and for the tens of millions of Americans who support them," he said.

"In an attempt to reduce corruption among Democrats and Republicans, the BCRA stifled political speech and imposed massive regulations that make it harder for third parties to compete. Given that, it would have been preferable if the court had taken

**What was so bad about BCRA? See page 11.**

this opportunity to strike down the BCRA in its entirety. But this ruling is a definite improvement."

The sprawling 1,600-page decision, released by the three-judge federal Appeals Court in Washington, DC, struck down key parts of the BCRA, but let others stand.

According to the complicated ruling:

■ Political parties can raise so-called soft money, which are unlimited donations from individuals, corporations, and unions.

■ Political parties can spend soft money on party-building activities, including get-out-the-vote efforts, phone banks, voter registration

drives, and office overhead expenses.

■ Political parties are prohibited from spending soft money on issue ads, or to help individual federal candidates.

■ Special interest groups — ranging from the NRA to Handgun Control, Inc. — can run so-called issue ads financed by soft money 30 days before a primary election and within 60 days of a general election.

■ Special interest groups are prohibited from running ads financed by soft money that "promote, support, attack or oppose a candidate at any time."

■ Minors (under 18) can make contributions to national party committees or federal candidates.

■ Individuals can contribute up to \$2,000 to a federal candidate. The BCRA had doubled the previous \$1,000 limit, and the court did not address this issue.

See **BCRA** Page 11

## City councilman Martin Howrylak wins 'easy' re-election in Michigan

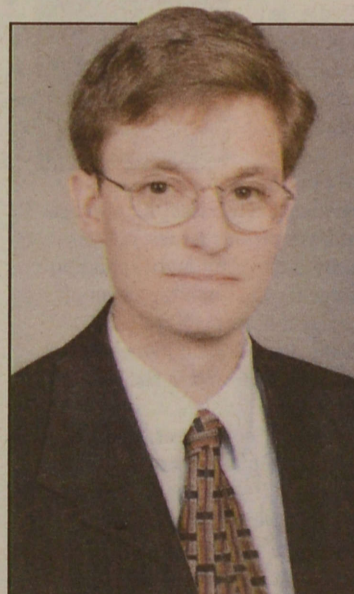
Michigan Libertarian Martin Howrylak overcame a "big-government tag-team" to win a surprisingly easy re-election victory to the Troy city council.

On April 7, Howrylak won 5,365 votes and earned another three-year term on the non-partisan council.

Howrylak's two challengers — who made an issue out of his Libertarian beliefs and ran as a team to try to unseat him — won 3,360 and 3,204 votes. The top two voter-getters were elected.

"If that's not a mandate from the people, I don't know what is," said campaign manager Fred Collins. "Opposition claims notwithstanding, Martin Howrylak clearly does represent 'mainstream' Troy. And he will continue to do so for another three years."

Howrylak said he was delighted



■ **Martin Howrylak:** "The best thing a sitting councilman can experience is re-election."

by the victory.

"The best way to describe [my feelings] is I'm flattered," he said. "The best thing a sitting councilman can experience is re-election. My hard work over the last three years paid off."

Early in the campaign, opponent Cristina Pappageorge, who finished third, had castigated Howrylak, 28, for his membership in the Libertarian Party.

"The phrase [Pappageorge] used was I encouraged drug use," said Howrylak. "It sparked workers to get out the vote. A lot of people worked hard and knocked on doors."

Barbara Goushaw, a member of the Howrylak campaign team, said his opponents tried to "smear" the Libertarian.

"Despite the fact that this was a non-partisan race, the opposition did

See **HOWRYLAK** Page 2

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Steve Kubby rests case in refugee hearing

Former LP gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby has finished presenting his arguments at a hearing to determine whether he will be granted political asylum in Canada, and now awaits a ruling from the Refugee Board.

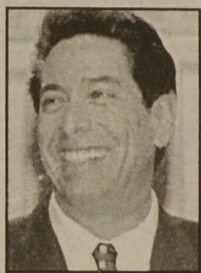
Kubby rested his case on April 16 in Vancouver. The decision whether to grant him "refugee" status is expected in October.

Kubby, who ran for governor in California in 1998, is seeking refugee status in Canada as a medical marijuana patient, arguing that he would be prosecuted and jailed under America's draconian drug laws if he returns to the USA.

During the hearing, a "parade of witnesses, including a sitting judge and a co-author of Prop. 215 all spoke out on Kubby's behalf, testifying that despite a California law sanctioning medical use of marijuana, pot users still face arrest and imprisonment because federal authorities don't recognize the state law, and state drug enforcement officers ignore it," said Michele Kubby, Steve Kubby's wife.

Kubby, who moved to British Columbia in 2001, takes marijuana for a rare form of adrenal cancer. He received permission from Health Canada in August to grow and use marijuana for medicinal purposes.

Kubby was arrested in California on drug charges in 1999, even though, three years earlier, California voters had passed Proposition 215, which legalized the medical use of marijuana.



■ Steve Kubby: 'Corrupt system'

### Tennessee LP starts website for U.S. troops

The Libertarian Party of Tennessee has created a new website to honor U.S. troops serving in Iraq and their families.

The site — [www.lptn.net/troops/](http://www.lptn.net/troops/) — was launched on April 1, and is intended to show that Libertarians value and respect the U.S. military, even if they disapprove of the military action in Iraq, said Tennessee LP State Chair Ray Ledford.

"Although many Libertarians oppose this war because we believe it to be unprovoked, unconstitutional, and likely to spark more acts of terrorism, we are united in our concern and prayers for the brave U.S. military men and women deployed in the Middle East," he said.

The website is designed so individuals can post the name of a U.S. serviceman or woman and upload that person's photo. Individuals can also post remarks about the serviceman or woman.

"The page is really for the benefit of the families; a place where they can share their concerns about their particular family member or friend who is fighting in Iraq," said Ledford.

The website also offers these thoughts for visitors:

"War, whether justified or not, is never an easy experience for anyone. That is why the Libertarian Party of Tennessee asks that you keep these brave members of the armed forces of these United States of America in your thoughts and prayers."

### Carl Drega named Freedom Book of the Year

The popular libertarian website [www.Free-Market.net](http://www.Free-Market.net) has named its "Freedom Book of the Year" for 2002: *The Ballad of Carl Drega* by Vin Suprynowicz.

The book, published by Mountain Media, is a collection of newspaper columns by Suprynowicz, who is a writer and editor at the *Las Vegas Review-Journal* and a syndicated columnist. *The Ballad of Carl Drega* (689 pages) is available in paperback for \$24.95.

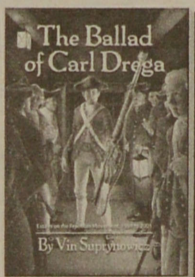
"Suprynowicz has hit another home run," said Free-Market.net editor Sunni Maravillosa. "[He uses] his newspaper columns as the starting point to address various issues in the fight for freedom in the United States. By organizing and expanding upon those columns, Suprynowicz documents the appalling level of state intrusion into matters beyond its rightful scope."

Suprynowicz is also the author of *Send in the Waco Killers*, which won the Freedom Book of the Year award in 1999, and is the publisher of the monthly Privacy Alert newsletter.

"Suprynowicz is one of the most principled, consistent, and hardcore libertarian writers around — boy, I'm glad he's on our side," said Maravillosa.

Runners-up for Freedom Book of the Year were *Joy of Freedom* (David Henderson), *Net Assets* (Carl Bussjaeger), *Boston's Gun Bible II* (Boston T. Party), and *Economics for Real People* (Gene Callahan).

The Freedom Book of the Year was selected by an online vote of Free-Market.net members. Any "pro-freedom book" published in 2002 was eligible to win. Free-Market.net is run by the International Society for Individual Liberty.



# Incumbent Martin Howrylak romps in Troy, Michigan race

## Libertarians also win elections in Texas and Massachusetts

Continued from Page 1

their best to smear Martin for his LP membership, attempting to make the LP sound like a bunch of half-crazed drug dealers," she said. "But because we had the resources to communicate directly with the voters, we were able to put to rest the silly charges, highlight Martin's record on the council, and communicate his goals for the future."

The end result: "We won big," said Goushaw. "The big-government tag-team that tried to shut down Martin Howrylak has been humiliated."

The campaign managed to overcome the attacks by focusing on Howrylak's record of achievement, said Collins.

"Our message was consistent throughout the campaign — 'Here is what Howrylak has done over the last three years, and here is what he wants to do in the next three,' " he said. "If you agree with these priorities, then vote for him."

"Troy voters resoundingly responded that it's what a candidate stands for and what he does that matter — not which party he belongs to. Perhaps future candidates will learn this lesson and focus on the issues affecting the city."

Howrylak won a majority of votes in 30 of the city's 31 precincts. He also won a majority of the 3,000 absentee ballots.

### Strong support

Howrylak piled up the big numbers thanks to "strong support from Libertarians, conservative Republicans, and Reagan-Democrats," said Collins.

"All day long, people kept coming up to me and saying that they would have walked to the poll through three feet of snow in order to vote for Marty," said Howrylak's father, Frank Howrylak, who spent the day greeting voters in his home precinct.

Howrylak's win could serve as a template for other LP candidates, said Tim O'Brien, former state LP execu-

tive director and current executive director of the Small Government Alliance.

"I believe that Howrylak's overwhelming re-election proves a couple of things — that libertarian ideas resonate with voters, and that the presumption that candidates can be smeared with the 'Libertarian' label is manifestly mistaken," he said.

A total of 11,929 people voted, or about 20% of Troy's 57,000 registered voters. Election workers said a snowstorm may have kept some voters away.

Troy, which has a population of about 80,000, is located in southeast Michigan, at the outskirts of metro Detroit.

**"TROY VOTERS  
resoundingly  
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what a candidate  
stands for and what  
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— not which party  
he belongs to."  
—Fred Collins**

In other late-breaking election news:

■ In Texas, Marshall Phillips came in first in a six-way race on May 3 to win a seat on the Buffalo Springs township council.

"We are very pleased that Marshall will become the second elected Libertarian in Lubbock County within the last three years," said Texas LP State Chair David DeLamar.

Phillips, who is also the Chair of the Lubbock County LP, will be the first Libertarian in Lubbock County

in a policy-making position, and the first sitting county LP Chair in Texas to hold office, said DeLamar.

Phillips is a law librarian at the John T. Montford Psychiatric/Medical Unit in Lubbock.

Also in Texas, Joey Dauben fell only 18 votes short in his effort to win a seat on the Midlothian ISD School Board (Place 2).

Dauben won 297 votes, coming in just shy of the first-place finisher's 315 votes in the four-way race. Only the top vote-getter was elected.

■ In Wisconsin, Craig Mohn, who had unsuccessfully run for Town Chair of Woodville, was appointed by the Town Board on April 8 to fill a vacant Trustee position.

"Thanks to Mohn's strong community involvement and interest in local politics, the town board voted him to fill its vacancy," said Wisconsin LP Executive Director Jeremy Keil.

Mohn is a member of the Chippewa Valley LP and treasurer of the Wisconsin LP.

■ In Massachusetts, Arthur Torrey was elected on April 5 to the Billerica Town Meeting for a three-year term. He came in fourth out of eight candidates competing for seven seats.

During his campaign, Torrey handed out 1,000 copies of a campaign flier, went door-to-door in at least half of his precinct, spoke at a candidates' night sponsored by the League of Women Voters, and stood outside the polls with a campaign sign on Election Day.

### Very low budget

From his win, Torrey said he learned that "local office races are winnable, with low effort and a very low budget; being actively Libertarian is not necessarily a handicap; [and] spending just a bit more effort than the opposition will pay off."

Torrey is the Chair of the Billerica Libertarian Party Town Committee.

In March and early April, 15 other LP members also won local office in Wisconsin, Illinois, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

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

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# Montrose Libertarians file grocery tax repeal bid

*Colorado Libertarians hope voters will repeal town's 3% tax on food consumed at home*

The Western Slope Libertarian Party's petition drive to qualify an initiative to repeal the grocery tax in Montrose, Colorado has been verified, and should appear on the ballot within 90 days.

On April 21, City Clerk Mary Watt certified that Libertarians had submitted more than 418 valid signatures from town voters.

Now, the Montrose city council has 30 days to consider the proposal. If it declines to pass the grocery tax repeal, the council can set a special election within 60 days.

"It is likely that the council will reject the ordinance and submit it to a vote of the citizens sometime this summer," said Mayor David Reed after the petition signatures were verified.

Libertarians agreed that the city council probably won't approve the grocery tax repeal.

## Do the right thing

"[The] city council has the opportunity to do the right thing by passing it themselves, but it sounds like they won't, so we'll have to get it on a special ballot," said Tim Jacobs, a Western Slope LP member who participated in the petition drive.

If passed by voters, the grocery tax repeal would save Montrose residents about \$2 million annually. The 3% tax on food purchased for home consumption, which generates about

24% of the city's sales tax revenues, has been in effect since 1964.

Libertarians said they want to repeal the tax because it places an unfair burden on the poor and elderly.

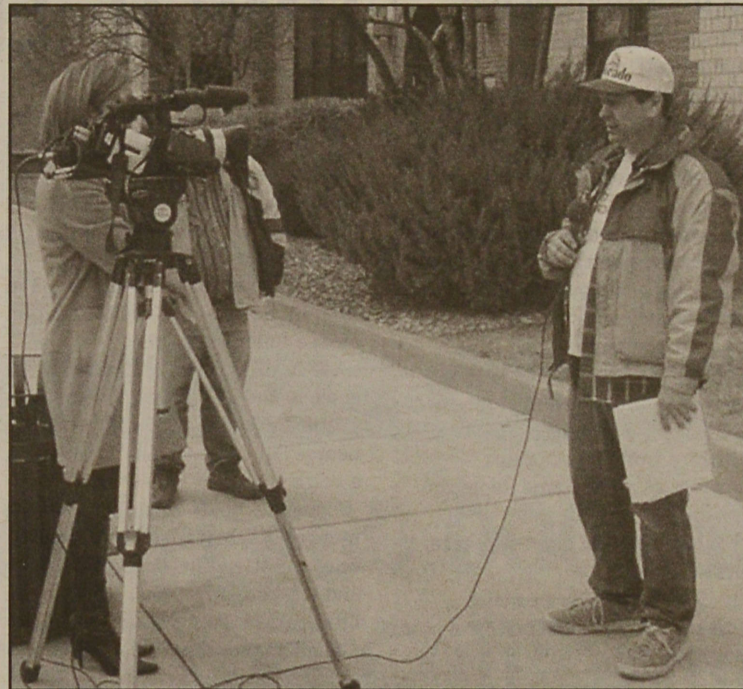
## Moral discussion

"What strikes me is that there has been no moral discussion of this," said Jacobs. "From my perspective, the moral issue trumps everything. A regressive tax that is hard on people with low and fixed incomes isn't moral."

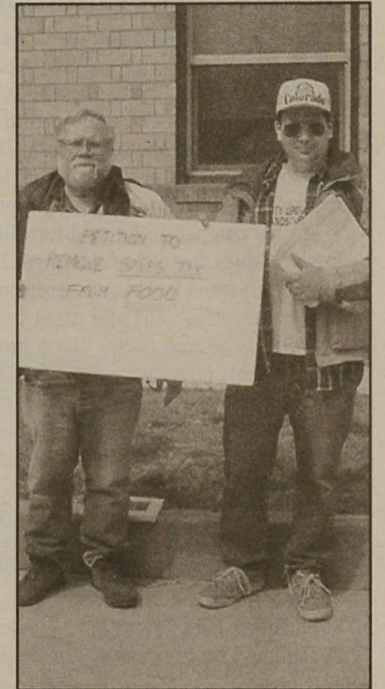
"We have a progressive income tax, which means the more you earn the higher taxes you pay. This food tax is the exact opposite because the less you earn, the more goes to the taxman. It's intrinsically unfair and should be changed."

Western Slope LP Chair Mike Humbert said if voters approve the tax cut, it will serve as an "instant tax rebate" for the community's less fortunate members.

"A sales tax on food is the most regressive of all taxes; those least able to pay must pay a higher proportion of their limited incomes," he said. "Montrose can repeal the food tax and benefit from even greater sales tax revenue by advertising it no longer charges a food tax. This will generate an instant tax rebate for its own less fortunate community members who will, in turn, be less dependent upon public assistance."



■ Left: Western Slope LP Chair Mike Humbert discusses the food tax repeal with KREY TV in front of City Hall. In his hand is a copy of the Montrose city budget. Right: Western Slope LP member John Duncan and Humbert pose in front of City Hall before filing signatures to qualify the grocery tax repeal initiative.



Humbert said he expects the Montrose city government will "pull out all the stops" to defeat the tax-cut initiative.

But instead of fighting the tax cut, the city should reduce spending, he argued. For example, he said, city politicians could restrict the number of city-owned vehicles, and postpone or cancel \$52 million worth of expansions and new building projects.

"The city of Montrose claims it needs the money, but Libertarians say

citizens on fixed and low incomes need the money more," he said.

To make its case that the city can reduce spending, the Western Slope LP has hired a certified public accountant to go over the city's budget, said Jacobs.

## Tighten its belt

"We're living in a time right now where the economic situation isn't terrific for everyone," he said. "People everywhere are tightening their belts,

and I think it's appropriate that the city tightens its belt, as well."

"We realize [city officials] are infinitely more wise and knowledgeable than we are, but we might be able to help them save some money."

The Western Slope LP started its petition drive in February. When the city clerk ruled on March 25 that 66 of the required 418 signatures were invalid, Libertarians collected an additional 161 signatures to qualify the initiative.

## Party to President Bush: Let weapons ban expire

The Libertarian Party has joined a campaign to convince President George W. Bush to change his mind — and allow a federal ban on so-called "assault weapons" to expire in 2004.

The party sent an Action Item to its 46,000-name e-mail list on April 24, asking Libertarians to send an e-mail to the White House urging Bush to let the "unconstitutional" law lapse.

"If we succeed, it wouldn't be the first time that Bush caved in to pressure on the gun issue and did the right thing," said LP Chair Geoffrey Neale. "Recall that last year Bush reversed his original position and ended up supporting a bill to allow guns in the cockpit."

"Let's try to get Bush to do another flip-flop in the direction of freedom! Tell President Bush that the government has no business dictating what kind of gun you can own. Let him know that your Constitutional rights aren't negotiable!"

The Action Item directed LP members to a web page set up by Gun

Owners of America — [www.gunowners.org/activism.htm](http://www.gunowners.org/activism.htm) — that contained a pre-written e-mail that could be signed and sent directly to President Bush.

The GOA message to the White House states: "The Clinton-Feinstein gun ban is clearly unconstitutional, and outlaws guns and magazines that millions of people have relied upon to defend their homes and families."

The Libertarian Party has also spoken out against Bush's support for the so-called assault weapons ban.

## Wrong message

In an April 23 statement, Neale said Bush would send the wrong message to terrorists and other criminals by renewing the ban.

"Politicians who want to disarm vulnerable Americans at a time like this are a threat to homeland security," he said. "The government simply can't protect everyone, all the time, but at least it can allow Americans to protect themselves."

Neale also noted that the main justification for the gun ban — that



■ LP Chair Geoffrey Neale: "Politicians who want to disarm vulnerable Americans at a time like this are a threat to security."

assault weapons are a favorite choice for criminals — doesn't stand up to logical scrutiny.

"According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, assault weapons are used in less than 1% of violent crimes, and the FBI admits that far more people are killed every year by knives and blunt objects than by any kind

See **EXPIRE** Page 7

## Georgia LP introduces education web petition

The Georgia Libertarian Party has launched an online petition to demand "true choice" in education for the state's children.

The petition — at [www.404-Freedom.com](http://www.404-Freedom.com) — went online on April 21, and gives Georgia residents an opportunity to demand "education choice for quality and equality," said Georgia LP Treasurer Wayne Parker.

"Only when parents have true choice in the education of their children will they see the kind of quality and equality in education that their children deserve," he said.

The petition was created to put pressure on the state legislature to pass educational reform that is superior to the S.T.A.R.S. legislation proposed by Republican Governor George "Sonny" Perdue, said Parker, an experienced school administrator.

## Omits parents

"While Perdue should be commended for offering more local control over education, I'm astounded that his little S.T.A.R.S. formula omits the most important part of a child's

**"ONLY WHEN  
parents have true  
choice in education  
will they see the  
kind of quality their  
children deserve."  
—Wayne Parker**

education — the parents," he said.

"The plan does attempt to give parents more control over existing government schools by expanding the size of school advisory councils. However, it does not allow parents any additional choice about where their children are educated. Children who are stuck in failing government schools will remain stuck there."

S.T.A.R.S. is an acronym for Students + Teachers + Accountability + See **GEORGIA LP** Page 7

## POLITICAL NEWS

### Jeffrey Diket announces presidential bid

**A** Louisiana Libertarian has announced he is running for president on a "pro-life, anti-communist" platform.

Jeffrey Diket, 57, who is legally blind, said he sent an application to the FEC announcing his candidacy on April 1.

If he gets the LP nomination, Diket said his presidential campaign will focus on "the abortion issue, limitation of government through financial means, foreign policy, and the drug war."

In his campaign, he said he will "seek the support of advocates of family values instead of deviates. I [will] emphasize the use of drugs to cure diseases instead of catering to addicts, and would prohibit RU486 [abortion pill] and other baby killer drugs and poisons."

Politically, said Diket, "I am pro-life, anti-communist, and have a plan to limit government expansion by enacting legislation establishing an independent subtreasury system which forces governments to only use the cash that they receive."

Diket, who has an MA in medieval history from East Carolina University, is a freelance musician. He serves as an At-Large Representative on the Louisiana LP executive board.

In 1998, he ran for U.S. Senate in Louisiana. In an eight-way race, he finished seventh, winning 3,283 votes (0.33%).

To contact the Diket campaign, call: (504) 392-7400. Or write: 5623 Forest Isles Drive, Apt. 37, New Orleans, LA 70131. (Correspondence must be typed or computer printed.)

### Cato publishes new *Handbook for Congress*

**W**hat should the federal government do? What should it stop doing? What could it do better?

Those questions — and more — are answered in the new 2003 *Cato Handbook for Congress*, published by the Washington, DC-based Cato Institute.

The *Cato Handbook* (108th Congressional edition) is written by Cato scholars and edited by Cato president Ed Crane and executive vice president David Boaz.

With 66 chapters and 680 pages, it offers comprehensive libertarian policy prescriptions for everything from Social Security to trade policy, and from tax cuts to the USA/Patriot Act.

According to the *Cato Policy Report*, the book "includes four new chapters on America's proper response to terrorism. The authors recommend 'clearing the decks' for the fight against al-Qaeda by transferring foreign aid funds to the war on terrorism and withdrawing troops from areas not of vital interest [to the U.S]."

On the domestic front, the book "examines new threats to civil liberties posed by the USA/Patriot Act, the Bush administration's apparent willingness to detain persons designated 'enemy combatants' without regard for the Constitution, and proposals to establish military tribunals and a national ID card," said the *Cato Policy Report*.

The *Cato Handbook* is available online at [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org). Or, a paperback copy can be ordered for \$20.00 by calling (800) 767-1241.

### News from the future: President Thompson

**G**ood news for Libertarians: In 2012, Ed Thompson will be elected president, and he will oversee the privatization of Social Security, an end to Drug Prohibition, and a more than 50% reduction in the size of government.

At least, that is what's predicted in a fanciful "look back from the future" by the Illinois-based Heartland Institute.

To celebrate its 20th anniversary next year, the non-partisan, free-market think tank released an April 1 reflection from Heartland president Joseph L. Bast that imagined the USA 26 years in the future.

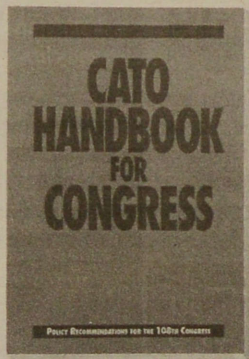
In 2029, he predicted, the USA will enjoy life-extension technology, a pollution-free world, and a 36,000+ stock market.

Credit for that last achievement went to President Ed Thompson (2012-2016), who passed the 28th Amendment, which privatized Social Security, abolished the federal income tax, and returned to the states responsibility for virtually everything except defense.

President Thompson also legalized drugs in 2014, causing crime and violence to plummet, and helped reduce government's share of the national income from 40% to just 17%, noted Bast approvingly.

However, not everything is coming up libertarian-colored roses. Thanks to the War on Terrorism launched by "Our Beloved Leader President George W. Bush," wrote Bast, Americans in 2029 still endure "the indignities of total surveillance, random searches and arrests, news blackouts, [and] the mysterious disappearance of Edward Crane."

Sounds like even after electing a Libertarian President, American citizens in 2029 will still need a Libertarian Party.



# National Committee approves UMP II, LP priorities for 2003

**T**he Libertarian National Committee, Inc. (LNC) has voted to offer a "modified" Unified Membership Plan, to reaffirm the LP's Strategic Plan, and to establish party priorities for 2003.

At its meeting on March 22-23 in Atlanta, Georgia, the LNC took action on the following items:

■ A motion to reaffirm all six goals in the LP's Strategic Plan, proposed by Region 2 Representative George Squyres (Arizona), passed on a voice vote.

The six goals are: Increase the number of Libertarians holding public office; strengthen Libertarian state and local organizations; increase the Libertarian Party's support base (members, contributors, and volunteers/activists); increase the Libertarian Party's market share among youth; increase public awareness of, and support for, Libertarian ideas; and remain the "Party of Principle" as the LP grows.

The Strategic Plan, originally approved by the LNC in 2001, outlines six major goals and 20 political strategies for the Libertarian Party over a one-, two-, and three-year time frame.

■ A motion to delete the Strategic Plan's Strategy 14, proposed by

**THE NEW UMP II**  
"represents a fundamental, and in my view positive, shift in the philosophy behind UMP."

—Sean Haugh

Region 8 Representative Mark Nelson (Iowa), passed on a 9-7 vote, with one abstention. Strategy 14 called for the party to "develop and implement a program of ideological internal education."

However, similar language was reintroduced and approved as a part of Strategy 13, which is to "provide better training and support for LP candidates and organizations."

#### New language

The new language calls for the LP to "develop and implement a program for educating and informing Libertarian Party candidates and activists about the broader implications of rep-

resenting oneself as a Libertarian, by providing resources about the ideological foundations of liberty."

■ Without objection, the LNC voted to add a new Strategy 21: "Track the performance of core and critical activities in the national party and implement a plan to remediate performance shortfalls."

■ On a voice vote, the LNC approved an alternative Unified Membership Plan, dubbed "UMP II."

The Unified Membership Plan allows party members to join both the national and their state LP simultaneously, with dues revenues shared between the two organizations.

#### Under UMP II:

• Monthly payments from the national LP to participating state affiliates will be smaller for first year (50¢ per month), but larger starting with second year (\$1.50 per month).

So, after the first year, an affiliate state party will get \$18 of a member's \$25 basic dues for "as long as the member keeps renewing," said Region 2 Representative Joe Dehn (California).

• For new members recruited by a state affiliate, the affiliate party will keep all but \$13 of the initial dues (except for Life Memberships, in

See **LNC** Page 5

## Movie and TV actor Dean Cameron reveals he's a 'hardcore libertarian'

**H**e plays a high-powered political operative on TV, but he isn't one in real life. He's a libertarian in real life, but he doesn't play one on TV.

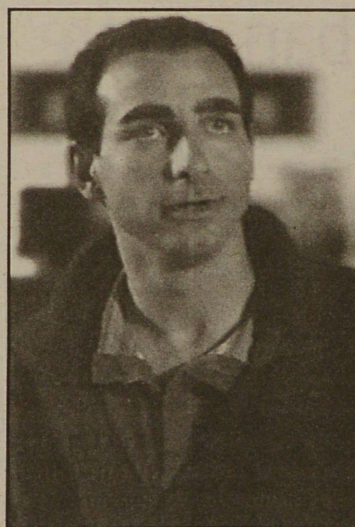
He's Dean Cameron — and he's become the latest Hollywood figure to declare himself a libertarian.

Cameron, the veteran character actor and funnyman who has been playing Deputy Press Secretary Derek Lerner on the NBC political drama *Mister Sterling*, told the *Los Angeles Times* that he is a "hard-core Libertarian."

He elaborated on that statement to the Advocates for Self-Government, saying he is "a refugee from the left."

"I'm always surprised that more artists aren't Libertarians," he said. "We are, ultimately, an idealistic group — and the often-misguided support of the Democrats or, worse, the Greens, is what some might call idiotic. I would never say idiotic, though I guess it's the most accurate term, isn't it?"

Ironically, given Cameron's libertarian beliefs, the show he has most recently appeared on is a homage to the "idiotic" liberal beliefs he scorns.



■ **Dean Cameron, the star of *Ski School*: "I'm always surprised that more artists aren't Libertarians."**

*Mister Sterling*, which is on hiatus while NBC decides whether to renew it, concerns an idealistic young U.S. Senator who is trying to "navigate the murky world of Washington politics."

Sterling, a California Independent who is named to replace a Democratic Senator who died while in office,

takes what one critic called "liberalish positions" on issues like taxes, the minimum wage, and abortion.

That's no surprise, since the show was created by Lawrence O'Donnell, a writer/producer for *The West Wing*, and an ex-aide to Democratic Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan.

Since *Mister Sterling* debuted in January 2003, it has won some critical acclaim but has sputtered in the ratings and faces cancellation.

#### Into practice

When not appearing on *Mister Sterling*, Cameron has been busy putting his libertarian beliefs into practice.

He is the inventor of the "Bill of Rights, Security Edition" for travelers — the first 10 Amendments to the U.S. Constitution printed on playing card-sized pieces of metal.

The product is designed to set off the metal detectors in airports — and force airport security to take away your Bill of Rights, said Cameron.

"You need to get used to offering up the Bill of Rights for inspection," he said. "And government workers need to get used to deciding if you'll

See **CAMERON** Page 5

# LNC approves UMP II, 2003 priorities

Continued from Page 4

which case the affiliate keeps all but \$500).

UMP II gives state affiliates more incentive to recruit new members, said Dehn, since if the affiliate recruits a new member who pays \$100, the affiliate keeps \$87, plus receives a \$6 UMP payment the first year, for a total first-year payment of \$93.

"Implementation is optional," noted Dehn. "Each state affiliate can choose to stay with the existing UMP plan, switch to this one, or opt out of UMP altogether."

UMP II "represents a fundamental, and in my view positive, shift in the philosophy behind UMP," said Region 4 Alternate Sean Haugh (North Carolina). "Where the original plan explicitly gave states incentive to forget about membership recruitment and just let national handle it, UMP II gives us a financial incentive to make membership a higher priority."

■ The LNC approved five "top priorities" for the party in 2003. The motion passed on a voice vote. The priorities are:

- **Financial:** By September 15, accounts payable should be current; by December 31, a calculated reserve of two times the December 2003 UMP payment should exist. That reserve fund would be approximately \$72,000.

- **Management:** The party will hire an executive director by December 31, 2003. That position has been vacant since former Executive Direc-

tor Steve Dasbach resigned in September 2002.

- **Database System:** A new database system should be purchased, installed, and the transition plan completed. The new system is expected to cost about \$37,000.

- **Accounting/Bookkeeping:** By May 31, 2003, the transition to the new accounting system should be complete; by June 30, the staff

should be fully trained in the use of the new accounting system.

- **Candidate Recruiting:** The party should run at least 500 candidate for public office in 2003.

In other LNC meeting news:

- Consideration of a motion to increase basic LP annual dues from \$25 to \$50 and to increase the cost of a Life Membership from \$1,000 to \$2,500 — proposed by Region 3 Rep-

resentative Mark Rutherford (Indiana) — was postponed until the June 2003 meeting.

■ The LNC voted to hold its December 13-14, 2003 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, and its February 21-22, 2004 meeting in Austin, Texas.

The next LNC meeting will be held in Seattle, Washington, on June 28-29, 2003.

The 18-member LNC is the governing body of the Libertarian Party. National Committee representatives and officers are selected by delegates at the party's national convention every two years.

## ATTENTION ALL CALIFORNIANS

# Imagine a \$1,460,000 campaign fund for the California LP U.S. Senate campaign in 2004.

## YOU CAN MAKE IT HAPPEN!

**Y**our pledge of \$1 per day to the 2004 US Senate campaign in California combined with the same pledge from every other LP member in California would add up to \$1,460,000 at the end of one year.

We still have 18 months left to build a campaign fund larger than has ever been raised for a California election of any size.

This money will be put into the California Liberty PAC to be used...

- Before the primary to alert California Libertarian voters to turn out for the Primary and...

- After the primary to tell California voters to Vote Libertarian up and down their ballots in Nov. 2004.

This is not for one candidate alone. It is for all LP candidates on the California ballot.

The Lightfoot campaign for U.S. Senate 2004 has pledged to include each candidate in TV and other media advertising. Internal party members will produce the ads, candidates will add their trailers and the US Senate campaign will buy the air time.

**Your pledge will make it happen!**

Go to [www.LightfootforUSSenate2004.org](http://www.LightfootforUSSenate2004.org).

Pledge today!

Give all you can to build the campaign fund from

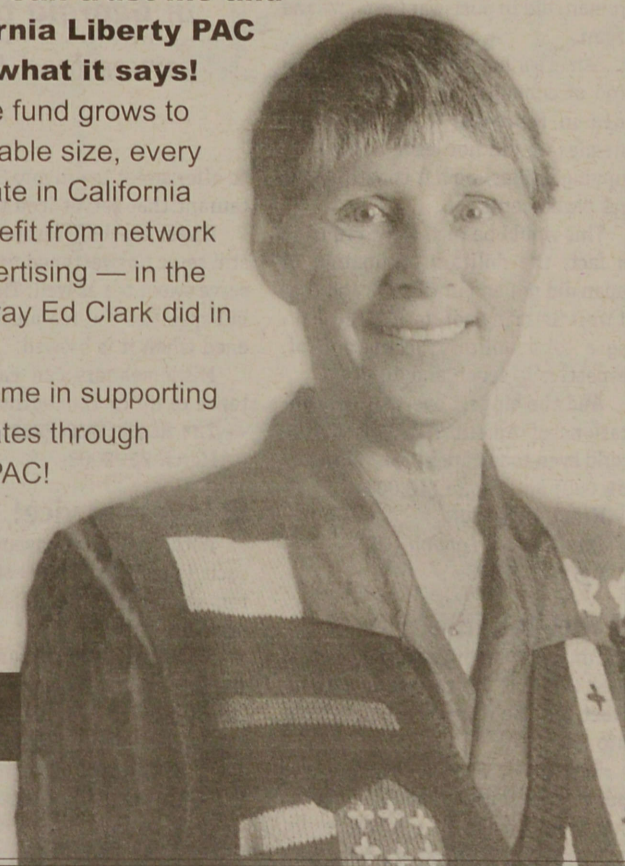
insufficient up to \$365,000 if just 4,000 LPC members give one quarter per day, \$730,000 if just 4,000 LPC members give one half dollar per day, or \$1,430,000 if just 4,000 LPC members give a dollar a day; to support California's Libertarian candidates up and down the ballot in 2004.

Californians, show the nation we can fund a campaign in California with national impact in November 2004.

**You can trust me and California Liberty PAC to do what it says!**

If the fund grows to appreciable size, every candidate in California will benefit from network TV advertising — in the same way Ed Clark did in 1980.

Join me in supporting candidates through CaLib PAC!



## GAIL LIGHTFOOT ★ US SENATE

[www.LightfootforUSSenate2004.org](http://www.LightfootforUSSenate2004.org)

## Cameron: libertarian

Continued from Page 4

be allowed to keep the Bill of Rights with you when you travel."

Cameron said he has sold about 2,000 of the Bill of Rights sets via a website, [www.securityedition.com](http://www.securityedition.com).

"It's pretty amazing," he said. "Another thousand, I'll turn a profit."

Libertarian magician Penn Jillette has been vocal in his praise for Cameron's Bill of Rights invention.

"My friend, Dino Cameron, is a genius," he said. "He got the idea to make playing card-size copies of the Bill of Rights printed on metal. With the Fourth Amendment in red. It's a great idea. It sets off the metal detectors and you get to hear the security person say, 'I'm going to have to take away your Bill of Rights.'"

Cameron is perhaps best known for his roles in frothy movie comedies like *Ski School* (1991), *Ski School 2* (1994), and *Summer School* (1987). He also starred in *Hi-Life* (1998), *Midnight Blue* (1996), and *Hollywood Palms* (2001).

In addition, he has appeared in small roles on a number of popular television series, including *Will and Grace*, *Mad About You*, *Party of Five*, and *ER*.

## Beginner's Introduction

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## TALKING POINTS

# James Watson on genetics and Albert Einstein on income taxes

### ■ It Really Stinks

Many years ago I framed on the wall of my office a classic "Peanuts" cartoon that shows Snoopy sitting on top of his dog house pecking away at his typewriter, and the message he writes is: "Dear IRS: Please take me off your mailing list."

If only it were that easy. For those like me who may still be recovering from [April 15], here are some vital statistics about the monstrosity of the tax code we've created in America.

■ The IRS once seized all the money in Katie Wier's bank account to pay her parents' delinquent taxes. Katie is 6 years old. The IRS got \$26.

■ The first income tax in 1913 required that just 2% of American families complete a tax return. The highest tax rate then was 7%.

■ "The hardest thing in the world to understand is the federal income tax." So said Albert Einstein.

■ A *Money* magazine poll once found that 70% of the members of Congress on the two major tax writing committees — House Ways and Means and Senate Finance — cannot figure out their own returns and used professional tax preparers.

— **STEPHEN MOORE**  
*The Washington Times*  
April 14, 2003

### ■ Germany and Japan

[President George W.] Bush likes to compare what he is attempting in Iraq to what his predecessor, Harry Truman, did in post-war Germany and Japan.

"America has made and kept this kind of commitment before," he argued in February. "After defeating enemies we did not leave behind occupying armies, we left constitutions and parliaments."

This would be nice if it were true. In fact, the military occupation of Japan did not end until 1952 and that of West Germany not until 1955, making a total military occupation of, respectively, seven and 10 years.

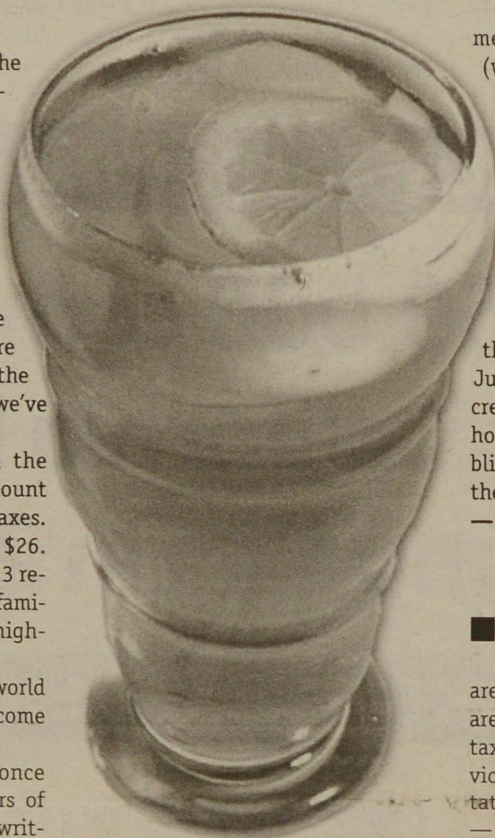
And the biggest overseas concentrations of American troops in the world even today are in, yes, Germany (69,000) and Japan (40,000).

— **NIALL FERGUSON**  
*The Times of London (UK)*  
April 13, 2003

### ■ Nut-tea idea

For some Georgia lawmakers, a meal wouldn't be complete without sweet tea. Now they could put that into law.

Rep. John Noel, D-Atlanta, and four co-sponsors filed a bill [in March] that would make it a misdemeanor "of a high and aggravated nature" not



**A NEW BILL**  
.....  
**would make it**  
.....  
**a misdemeanor not**  
.....  
**to offer sweet tea**  
.....  
**in any restaurant**  
.....  
**in Georgia that**  
.....  
**serves iced tea.**

to offer sweet tea in any Georgia restaurant that serves iced tea.

Under the bill, restaurants could still serve unsweetened tea, but must serve sweet tea as well. The proposed bill specifies the tea must be sweetened when it is brewed.

Misdemeanors can carry a sentence of up to 12 months in jail.

— **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**  
March 26, 2003

### ■ Invest in vice!

With the move toward so-called socially responsible investing, investors should be contemplating the real price of virtue.

So-called "ethical funds" are in the business of "socially responsible investing" (SRI). Ethical funds vary a great deal, depending on their managers' definitions of virtue and vice, but they generally eschew tobacco, alcohol, defense, guns and nuclear energy. They privilege the environ-

ment, "sustainable development" (whatever that means), and a politically correct conception of "human rights."

[However, there is another option.] The Vice Fund, created seven months ago, invests in alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and national defense.

Investing in vice often pays. Data from the Vice Fund indicate that, over the five-year period to June 30, 2002, stock prices have increased 8% in tobacco, 63% in alcoholic beverages and 116% in gambling, compared to a 12% increase in the Standard & Poor 500 Index.

— **PIERRE LEMIEUX**  
*National Post (Canada)*  
April 14, 2003

### ■ Taxing proposals

At least 18 deficit-ridden states are so desperate for money that they are seeking either to boost their sales tax or to extend it to goods and services — including such purchases as tattoos, manicures, even wheelchairs — that had been left untouched.

Besides services, some states may begin collecting taxes on previously exempt goods. In Kansas, there's a plan to tax the sale of prosthetic and orthopedic devices such as walkers and wheelchairs.

In Connecticut, lawmakers have imposed a 6% sales tax on health club owners and newspaper and magazine sales.

In Ohio, Governor Bob Taft has proposed extending the 5% sales tax to dry cleaning, cable TV, real estate sales and purchases, interior design — and tattoos.

— **ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS**  
*Associated Press*, April 14, 2003

### ■ Wisdom from Watson

Governments should stay out of genetics and let individuals decide how to use knowledge about their genes, including whether to create designer babies, one of the co-discoverers of DNA said on [April 8].

James Watson, the Nobel Prize-winner who unraveled the double-helix structure of DNA 50 years ago, said private citizens — not states or popes — had the right to determine their genetic fate and that of their offspring.

"We are the product of our genes. No one else is going to take care of us or give us rules for how to behave except ourselves," the 75-year-old scientist told reporters at the Biovision world life sciences conference in France.

"I'm against society imposing rules on individuals for how they want to use genetic knowledge. We're too multi-cultural to say we know

how other people should behave. The state should stay out of genetics."

— **BEN HIRSCHLER**  
*Reuters*, April 8, 2003

### ■ Outlawing frowning

The Palo Alto, Calif., City Council scheduled for a final vote in May a proposed code of conduct that includes (in order to coax civility among members) an official admonition to avoid even nonverbal forms of disagreement with each other, such as rolling one's eyes or shaking one's head or frowning.

— **CHUCK SHEPHERD**  
*News of the Weird*  
April 27, 2003

### ■ Mised Americans?

The "victory" in Iraq that evoked so much irrational exuberance in Washington is degenerating into a bit of a farce. Iraqi Shiite clerics are telling us to get out and take our notions of nation building with us. We can't find Saddam Hussein, the egomaniacal dictator we could tolerate for 25 years but not a day longer.

Most importantly, the premise on which the White House sold this — Iraq had weapons of mass destruction that were a direct threat to us — has yet to be validated.

Remember, the White House insisted repeatedly that Iraq was a threat to the United States because a Hitler-in-the-making had weapons of mass destruction.

If the weapons are not found, the most charitable explanation is that they were moved out of Iraq while we were bombing our way to Baghdad — or that we had rotten intelligence to begin with. Either illustrates incompetence.

The more ominous conclusion is that Bush deliberately misled Americans to gather support for the Iraqi invasion — or unwittingly was misled himself by gung-ho advisers.

— **DON CAMPBELL**  
*USA Today*, April 27, 2003

### ■ Economic stupidity

Imagine that you and I are in a rowboat. I commit the stupid act of shooting a hole in my end of the boat.

Would it be intelligent for you to respond by shooting a hole in your end of the boat?

Or, imagine I were a politician and told you that the Russian, Chinese, Korean, Brazilian and German governments were ripping off their citizens by, on the one hand, taxing them to provide subsidies to their domestic steel industries and, on the other, erecting tariff barriers forcing them to pay higher prices for products made with or containing steel.

Would you deem it responsible or intelligent of me to propose retaliatory tariff policy, whereby Americans are ripped off until Russia, China, Korea, Brazilian and German governments stop ripping off their citizens?

Both of these scenarios are applicable to the Bush administration's 30% steel tariffs imposed last year. Those tariffs caused the domestic price for some steel products to rise by as much as 40%. The beneficiaries of the Bush steel tariffs were steel industry executives, stockholders, and the approximately 1,700 steel-worker jobs that were saved.

[But] according to a study by the Institute for International Economics, saving those 1,700 jobs in the steel industry cost American consumers \$800,000 in the form of higher prices for each steelworker job saved.

That's just the monetary side of the picture. According to a study commissioned by the Consuming Industries Trade Action Association, higher steel prices have caused job losses in no fewer than 16 states — over 19,000 jobs in California, 16,000 in Texas, and 10,000 in Ohio, Michigan and Illinois. In other words, industries that use steel are forced to pay higher prices, the products they produce become less competitive and they must lay off workers.

It'd make better economic sense for Congress to pass an Aid to Dependent Steelworkers Act [and] give each of those 1,700 steelworkers, whose jobs were saved, \$100,000 a year so they might take off and live in a nice beachfront condo in Florida.

— **WALTER WILLIAMS**  
[www.TownHall.com](http://www.TownHall.com)  
May 1, 2003

### ■ Making us safer

With the fall of Saddam Hussein in Iraq, one of the most wanted men in Afghanistan, renegade commander Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, has promised President Bush "thousands of Osama bin Ladens."

"After the collapse of Baghdad, people think that the war in Iraq has come to an end, but another, guerrilla war, shall begin from this moment on," he warned in a five-page message.

The message warned of fresh suicide attacks and called the U.S.-led victory over Hussein a sorry day for Muslims worldwide.

"Now every Arab is an Osama bin Laden and he has found a place of jihad [holy war] in your own neighborhood," Hekmatyar said. "Oh proud Bush, wait for thousands of Osama bin Ladens. You will see the wrath of the Muslim youths in the shape of suicide attacks."

— **KATHY GANNON**  
*Associated Press*, April 27, 2003

## Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair  
Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

Click on: Organization  
Click on: State Parties  
Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee  
Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)

Click on: Organization  
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■ Renew your membership  
Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)  
See: Special Features (left side)  
Click on: Renew

# LP: Let 'assault weapons' ban expire

Continued from Page 3

of rifle, including an assault rifle," he said.

The federal law, which banned certain types of semi-automatic rifles and magazines containing over 10 rounds, was sponsored by Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) and Rep. Charles Schumer (D-NY), both champions of the anti-gun movement.

The ban narrowly passed in both houses of Congress and was signed

into law by President Bill Clinton in 1994.

However, the law contained a 10-year sunset provision, and is set to expire in September 2004 unless reauthorized by Congress and signed again by the president.

Republican gun-owners, who assumed that President Bush would allow the law to quietly expire, were shocked on April 12 when White House spokesman Scott McClellan

announced that Bush planned to renew the ban.

Knight-Ridder newspapers quoted McClellan as saying Bush "supports the current law, and he supports reauthorization of the current law."

When it heard the news, Gun Owners of America alerted its e-mail list, and generated over 10,000 e-mails and calls to the White House in the first 24 hours, according to GOA Executive Director Larry Pratt.

In response, some White House operators claimed there was no Scott McClellan working at the White House — even though both the *Washington Post* and *WorldNetDaily.com* carried articles identifying McClellan as a White House spokesman, said Pratt.

## Feinstein and Schumer

However, all uncertainty ended on April 16 when Feinstein and Schumer issued a statement that "welcomed the announcement that President George W. Bush supports the reauthorization of the 1994 assault-weapons ban.

"In 1994, we fought hard to win passage of the original ban, and shortly after Congress returns from the spring recess we plan to introduce legislation that would reauthorize it," said Feinstein and Schumer. "We welcome your support and look forward to working with you to gain swift passage of this legislation."

If Bush does not reverse his position, it could be bad news for him: An unscientific poll on the *KeepandBearArms.com* website reported that 90% of the respondents will not vote for Bush in 2004 if he signs a bill reauthorizing the ban.

# Georgia party offers petition on education

Continued from Page 3

Respect = Success.

With the clock running out on this year's legislative session, politicians may not pass any school choice bill, acknowledged LP State Chair Helmut Forren.

"In case our lawmakers under the gold dome don't get the picture this year, we'll keep this petition running for the rest of the year and into next year's session," he said. "There's a reason that Georgia trails the rest of the nation in education. I just hope we can get our lawmakers to open their eyes to it."

The language of the online petition states: "I, the undersigned resident of Georgia, demand education choice and the quality and equality that it will bring to my state.

"Other states, like Arizona and Florida, allow parents significantly more choices for the education of their children. These states, as well as other states, allow greater choice for parents in all income brackets through their various programs of tax credits, vouchers, and reduced regulations on home schooling.

"Please allow me and other parents to exercise the choice that we deserve so that we can bring both quality and equality to the education of our children."

The [www.404-Freedom.com](http://www.404-Freedom.com) petition automatically forwards all online signatures to the governor, to state representatives, and to state senators.

## Lists options

While the website does not offer specific "school choice" policy proposals, it does list options "that have already been tested and proven in other states," including tax credits, vouchers, and home-schooling.

Whatever route state legislators choose, "Quality education requires school choice, something few parents in Georgia are allowed to enjoy," said the website. "As economist Milton Friedman put it, 'The virtue of choice is that it gives parents the power — it enables the parents to determine what happens. And therefore good schooling systems will thrive, bad schooling systems will fail.'"

# TAXATION EQUALS SLAVERY

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A BEAUTIFUL  
MESSAGE!

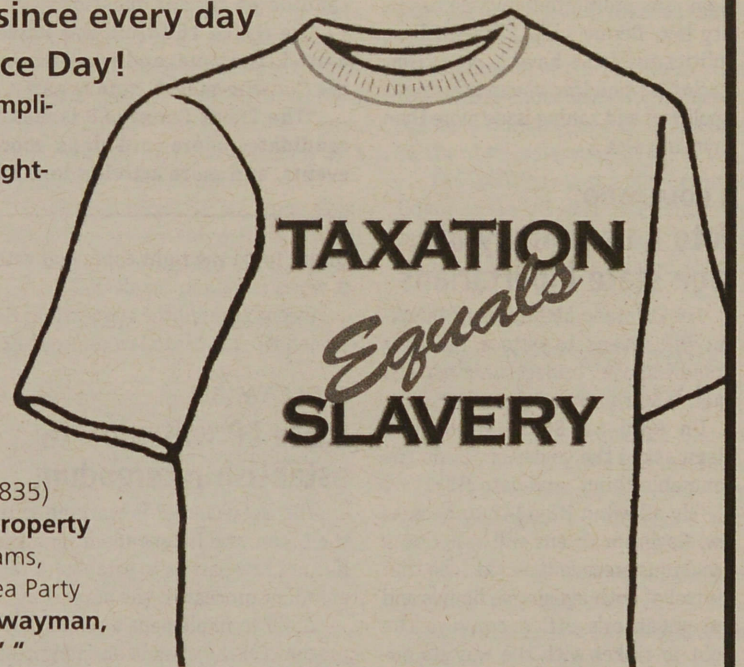
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- "The man who produces while others dispose of his product is a slave."  
— Ayn Rand, author of *Atlas Shrugged*
- "We have rights, as individuals, to give as much of our own money as we please to charity; but as members of Congress we have no right so to appropriate a dollar of public money."  
— David Crockett, US Congressman (1827-1835)
- "Now what liberty can there be where property is taken without consent?" — Samuel Adams, founding father and leader of the Boston Tea Party
- "The fact is that government, like a highwayman, says to a man: 'Your money or your life.'"  
— Lysander Spooner, philosopher and abolitionist.



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## AFFILIATE NEWS

# Libertarians lobby for shelters, referendum, & privatized liquor

### ■ CALIFORNIA

#### S.F. mayoral candidate: Allow low-cost shelters

A city law that prevents "truly affordable shelters" for the homeless from being built in San Francisco is wrong and should be repealed.

So said **Michael Denny**, the LP candidate for San Francisco mayor, in a March 17 statement.

His comments came after homelessness activist Jim Reid said he could build 20 "Shelter One" cottages for the homeless on a single city-owned lot at a cost of only \$6,000 per unit, using some donated materials and volunteer labor.

The city government should "get out of Jim's way and let him build," said Denny. "Who says we need City Hall to use the force of taxes and public bonds to solve our housing problems? San Francisco's citizens and businesses, working together, will do more to solve our problems than any government project."

Noting that the "Shelter One" cottages are prohibited under current city law, Denny said, "The truth is, politicians don't have a clue. [Obstacles to] building cheap housing is a political and zoning issue more than anything else."

### ■ COLORADO

#### Veto new primary bill, urge state Libertarians

The Colorado LP has urged Governor Bill Owens to veto a bill that would impose "unnecessary barriers upon minor parties."

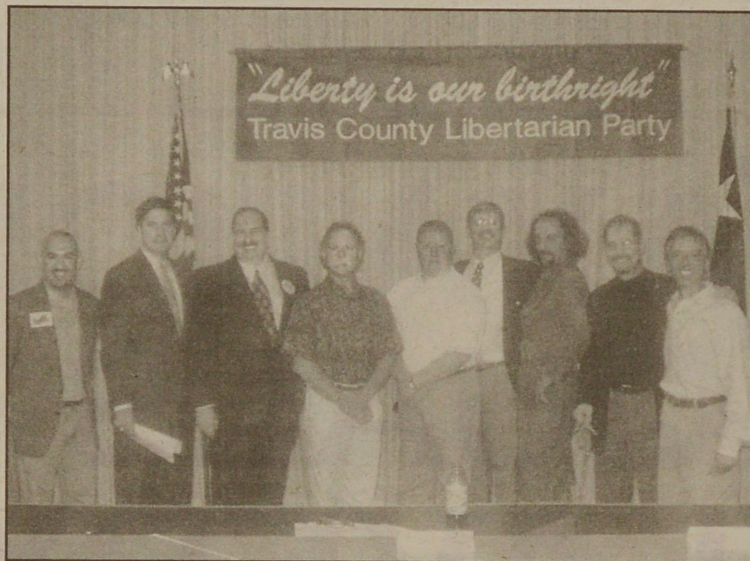
On April 11, State Chair **Norm Olsen** asked the governor "to do the honorable thing" and veto HB-1142.

"By allowing HB-1142 to become law, Governor Owens will sanction a dangerous precedent — the idea that control of both legislative bodies and the governor's office conveys the right to tinker with the way its opposition chooses its candidates and gains access to the ballot," said Olsen.

HB-1142, which passed the State Senate in early April, would require minor parties to use the same caucus and primary system as the major parties to select candidates.

Because minor parties have fewer registered voters, it will be difficult for them to turn out enough caucus participants to meet legal requirements — which will result in fewer third-party candidates on the ballot, charged Olsen.

"Is this government of, by, and for the people? Or is it government of, by, and for political parties?" he asked. "The Libertarian Party joins with the other minor parties in opposing HB-1142, and urges Governor



#### Austin County LP in Texas hosts forum

■ Candidates for the May 3 Austin, Texas election — including four mayoral and two city council hopefuls — participated in a candidate's forum, sponsored by the Austin County Libertarian Party.

"This was the first forum of the election season for all candidates," said Travis County LP Chair Patrick Dixon. "Several Austin television and newspaper journalists were on hand to hear the candidates answer questions."

The March 16 forum was moderated by KLBJ radio personality Patrick Timponi, and was just one of many activities conducted by the "on-the-move" county party, said Dixon.

"The Travis County LP is making noise!" he said. "We have more candidates, more yard signs, more radio ads, more TV ads, more events, and more activists and contributors than ever before."

Owens to do the right thing and veto it when it gets to his desk."

Owens ignored the suggestion: He signed HB-1142 into law on April 22.

### ■ DELAWARE

#### State LP will work to establish referendum

The Delaware LP is working with the Green, the Independent, and the Natural Law parties to establish a referendum process in the state.

A bill to implement a referendum process (SB 24) has been submitted in the legislature, and Libertarians "will work to get this passed," said LP State Chair **George Smith**.

As a first step, Libertarians will contact their state representatives and ask them to co-sponsor the bill.

"My party-building goal here is to tackle a big project and succeed," said Smith. "I don't see a problem with sharing success with other parties."

If a referendum process is approved, the state LP could then work to implement such political reforms as term limits, said Smith.

"I contacted US Term Limits for suggestions on how to get them enacted," he said. "I was told that there was almost no chance without a referendum process."

The LP got involved in the refer-

endum coalition after the Green Party contacted him for help with a public campaign financing bill, said Smith.

"I politely declined, but then offered that there were many areas where we and the other minor parties agreed," he said. "I mentioned NOTA [None Of The Above], medical marijuana, and changes to the registration process as starters."

"[A referendum process] would open the door to all kinds of things that just wouldn't fly otherwise."

### ■ GEORGIA

#### Tax Freedom Day gets a 'Hallelujah!' from LP

On April 20, Georgia residents should have said, "Hallelujah!"

That's because on April 19 — the 109th day of the year — they finally earned enough money to pay their federal, state, and local taxes, said Georgia LP State Chair **Helmut Forren**.

"It is outrageous that Georgians

must labor nearly one-third of the year just to pay taxes," he said. "Even the good Lord doesn't ask His followers for a tithe of more than 10%. There seems to be no end to the greedy politicians' insatiable desire to separate workers from their paychecks."

According to the Tax Foundation's annual study, Americans in 2003 will work 74 days to pay federal taxes and 35 days to pay state and local taxes. That's a two-day improvement since 2000, attributable to the slow economy and federal tax reductions in 2001 and 2002.

"Even though they get more days of tax freedom, Americans still have to work longer to pay for government than they do for food, clothing, and shelter — combined," noted Forren.

### ■ GEORGIA

#### Party plans next move after ordinance veto

Southern Crescent Libertarians are planning how to fight back, after the Forest Park mayor vetoed the city council's repeal of a controversial ordinance.

On March 23, Forest Park Mayor Chuck Hall struck down a repeal of Section 8-2-5 of the Code of Ordinances. According to the mayor, the council could not just repeal an ordinance, but had to replace it with a different ordinance.

The city council had voted 5-0 in March 17 to repeal the ordinance, which had required landlords to notify the city every time a new tenant moved in, and granted city inspectors access to property to look for code violations.

"When I heard about the repeal, I was shocked," said **Philip Bradley**, Chair of the Clayton County LP. "I couldn't believe that the mayor could overturn a unanimous decision of the people's representatives."

The Forest Park city charter requires four votes on the city council to override a mayoral veto.

The Southern Crescent Team, a coalition of Libertarians from Clayton, Fayette, and Henry counties, had led the fight to repeal the ordinance, arguing that it violated landlords' Fourth Amendment rights.

Southern Crescent Libertarians are "watching the city council to see what they do next," said Bradley, and will probably run LP candidates for city council.

"Fighting these issues one at a time takes up huge amounts of time and money," he said. "The only way I can see to stop it is to get Libertarians elected everywhere we can."

### ■ ILLINOIS

#### Lake County LP opposes plan to keep bond tax

Members of the Lake County LP turned out to protest on Tax Day — but not to oppose the income tax.

Instead, they held a rally at the Gurnee Post Office against a bill that would allow Lake County officials to collect \$10 million in taxes without the approval of local voters.

The bill, SB 153, was filed by State Representative Sidney Mathias (R-Buffalo Grove). It would allow the county government to continue to collect \$10 million in taxes, earmarked to pay off bonds, even after the bonds are fully paid off.

If the bill passes, a tax cut scheduled for property owners in 2005 would be indefinitely delayed.

"Tell Mathias that you want the chance to vote on whether you continue to pay this [tax]," said Lake County LP Chair **Eric Dubiel**. "Tell him property taxes need a diet, and he should drop his sponsorship of this bill."

The Libertarians carried signs that said, "No Taxation Without Referendum" and "Let Us Vote."

### ■ INDIANA

#### Hold killer, not parents, responsible, says party

An adult son, not his parents from whom he stole a gun, should be held responsible for a murder he later committed.

So said the state Libertarian Party after the Indiana Supreme Court ruled in mid-April that a slain police officer's family could file a civil lawsuit against the parents of his killer.

The case arose after Timothy Stoffer, 27, found a handgun his parents hid under an armchair cushion in 1997. He used the weapon to murder Sheriff's Deputy Eryk Heck, before being killed by police.

The state supreme court held the parents liable for negligently storing a firearm — "a decision that is an invitation to sue property owners, who would be punished twice: Once for being robbed and again for becoming unwitting parties to crimes they did not commit," said state LP Communications Coordinator **Sheri Conover Sharlow**.

"The blame is misdirected," she said. "His parents had no choice in the actions that their adult son took, so they have no responsibility. How could they be held liable for something they didn't know about?"

### ■ INDIANA

#### 'Bill Clinton' joins state party's writers' bureau

The state LP has recruited a surprising new name for its stable of op-ed writers: Bill Clinton.

OK, it's not really Bill Clinton — it's **Damian Mason**, an Indiana Libertarian who has professionally impersonated the former Rogue-In-Chief for almost a decade. But that didn't stop Indiana Libertarians from making hay from the pseudo-Clinton connection.

"Hide the summer interns. Bill

## Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video

The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!

Laissez-Faire Books ~ Amazon.com ~ MissLiberty.com

Clinton will be arriving soon in your newsroom," the state LP informed newspapers in an April 3 press release.

Mason, the release went on, will be writing monthly humor columns available via the Libertarian Writers Bureau, and covering topics "from the big world of current events to the small world of his Wells County home."

"Besides great comedy material, the government has given me very little," said Mason. "And, considering that the government takes half of my earnings, they are very well paid contributors."

Mason's column debuted on April 7. The Indiana Writers Bureau offers newspapers one op-ed essay a week from five state LP columnists.

#### ■ INDIANA

### LaPorte party says 'yes' to plasma waste plant

The LaPorte County LP has come out in favor of a proposal by Ingenero Corporation to build a plasma-based waste disposal and recycling plant in the county — calling it an "excellent idea" to solve a long-standing problem.

"It is a win-win idea that makes a lot of sense," said LaPorte County LP Chairman **Gregory Kelver**, who is also an engineer. "Local voters need to become informed about this issue."

The disposal and recycling plant would create jobs, is environmentally friendly, and will encourage economic development in an up-and-coming industry, said Kelver — which is why state and local politicians shouldn't set up regulatory roadblocks to it.

"It would be very unfortunate if LaPorte County got stuck with another huge, multi-state landfill because local politicians strangled Ingenero with red tape and regulations," he said.

A plasma-based waste disposal plant uses experimental technology to generate electricity from trash. Using a plasma torch that reaches almost 10,000 degrees, it melts waste to generate electricity.

#### ■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

### LP shows (green) flag at Solar Energy festival

The Monadnock Libertarians participated in a solar energy day at Keene State College to help showcase "free-market" environmental policies.

Libertarians gave away hundreds of flyers and business cards at the event, which was held on April 25 and featured live music from bands and rap artists, powered by a large set of solar panels.

"We are always excited about participating in environmental events," said **James Maynard**, co-chair of the Monadnock Libertarians. "We feel that environmentalism is one of the areas where libertarian thought can be applied with the greatest benefit."

The event, sponsored by Keene State Ecology, gave Libertarians an opportunity to point out that "government is destroying the environment, and the only way to a clean Earth is by bringing about a free market, libertarian environmental policy," said Michelle Otterson.



Photo by Ari Armstrong

### Colorado Libertarians count votes at state convention

■ Colorado Libertarians **Gregg Miller**, **David Aitken**, **Floyd Bilderback**, **Nathan Hickson**, and **Jeff Wright** count votes for the state executive board election at the annual state LP convention. The event, held April 4-6 at the Ramada Inn in Colorado Springs, attracted about 100 people.

"The convention was fun, enlightening, and exhausting," said Ari Armstrong, publisher of the *Colorado Freedom Report* ([www.co-freedom.com](http://www.co-freedom.com)).

At the convention, **Norm Olsen** was elected new State Chair, LP presidential hopefuls **Gary Nolan** and **Michael Badnarik** spoke, and syndicated columnist **Vin Suprynowicz** delivered the keynote address.

Also attending the solar energy day festival were LP State Chair **John Babiarz** and Andover budget committee member **Howard Wilson**.

#### ■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Party blasts 'dangerous' new medical privacy law

April 14 was a bad day for New Hampshire and for all of America — because that was the day a dangerous new federal medical privacy law went into effect.

"In classic government double-speak, the so-called 'Medical Privacy Rule' allows any government agency to gain access to all your medical records with a simple request," charged **Rich Tomasso**, media director of the New Hampshire LP.

"These new provisions present a serious danger to personal health," he said. "No longer can you count on conversations with your doctor being kept confidential. Anything in your medical records is available to any government agency, the police, even the WHO [World Health Organization] and foreign governments."

The new federal medical privacy rule was established by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), which mandated the development of a national health information network through standardized codes for all health care services.

With the new law, "we are seeing one of the last bastions of our civil liberties, doctor-patient confidentiality, destroyed by government intervention into health care," said Tomasso.

#### ■ NEW YORK

### Online petition will try to thwart 'Times\$cam'

State Libertarians have launched an online petition to try to stop the *New York Times* from seizing property from small landowners in downtown New York.

**Richard Cooper**, former state chair of the New York LP, said he created the petition in April because the *New York Times* is engaged in "legalized theft, using state power to deprive people of their property."

The *New York Times* wants a state agency, the Empire State Development Corporation's 42nd Street Development Corporation, to condemn a block of properties under eminent domain laws so it can use the land to construct a new office building.

Since the state agency would pay for any land-acquisition costs over \$85 million, the scheme could cost taxpayers \$150 million.

The online petition, addressed to New York Governor **George Pataki**, demands that the state government "block the Development Corporation from this action and to seek amendment of the eminent domain law to

prohibit such seizures for the benefit of private firms or individuals."

The New York LP has been fighting the plan — which it dubbed "Times\$cam" — for more than a year, said Cooper, and the petition is a "new front" in the battle.

"We call upon the NY Times Company to abandon this scheme and set an example of respect for the rights of others" said Cooper.

View the petition at: <http://www.PetitionOnline.com/timescam/>.

#### ■ NORTH CAROLINA

### State Chair named to election reform board

The State Chair of the North Carolina LP said she is "pleased" to have been appointed to a statewide election improvement board.

**Barbara Howe** was named to serve on the State Planning Committee on March 13 by **Gary Bartlett**, executive director of the State Board of Elections (SBOE). The committee will work to implement the federal Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002.

"I was pleased to be included on the committee," said Howe. "It was an opportunity to once again show that Libertarians can work cooperatively with other political groups."

Howe said she was appointed to the committee because of the LP's ballot-qualified status and because of its harmonious relationship with election officials.

"Since we are a legally qualified political party, Mr. Bartlett thought it only reasonable to include a Libertarian on the committee," she said. "We also have promoted a good rela-

tionship with the SBOE, and they respect our input."

As a Libertarian, Howe said she will bring "a balanced perspective," to the board, and encourage the state to consider Instant Runoff Voting.

HAVA established a program to help states improve their election process. Libertarians have also been named to serve on State Planning Committees in Indiana and Illinois.

#### ■ OREGON

### Privatize state liquor business, says state LP

Oregon Libertarians have endorsed a bill to privatize the state liquor business — calling the current government-run system "a relic."

State LP Executive Director **Richard Burke**, testifying before the House Ways and Means Committee, said the Oregon Liquor Control Commission (OLCC) should be eliminated because it has the conflicting missions of encouraging people not to drink alcohol — while, at the same time, trying to maximize liquor revenue for government.

The agency also operates as a "self-anointed morality commission" that tries to regulate nude dancing in bars, he charged.

"It is not the Oregon 'Entertainment' Control Commission," he said in his April 2 testimony. "I would contend that it is the community's business as to the kind of entertainment provided [in bars]."

House Bill 3130 would privatize the liquor business, which brings in \$104 million a year in revenue for the state government.

Opponents of the bill argued that privatizing liquor sales would encourage more drinking, or reduce revenues to the state government.

The OLCC has had a monopoly on liquor since the end of Prohibition, purchasing alcohol and selling it through 238 state-regulated stores.

#### ■ TENNESSEE

### 'Mixed nuts and fruits' passed new tomato bill

A vote by the Tennessee General Assembly to designate the tomato as the official state fruit proves the legislature is made up of "mixed nuts and fruits."

That was the acerbic comment of LP State Chair **Ray Ledford** after the legislature passed a bill honoring the tomato in early April.

"While Tennesseans are struggling under the highest level of taxation in Tennessee history, they waste their time and our money passing silly laws like this," he said.

If the General Assembly wants to be more responsible, they could stop honoring fruit and start rolling back taxes, suggested Ledford.

"If the General Assembly were really serious about honoring the tomato, they would remove the sales tax on tomatoes — and why stop there?" he said. "If they cared about Tennesseans, they would remove the sales tax on all food and clothing."

"Do the right thing for Tennessee — eliminate the sales tax on food and clothing, and stop wasting time and money on nonsensical bills."

### Is Abortion Aggression? Scientific & Philosophical Arguments Show Why It Is

Go to: <http://www.L4L.org>  
For a literature list, send a S.A.S.E. to Libertarians for Life,  
13424 Hathaway Drive #18,  
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[libertarian@erols.com](mailto:libertarian@erols.com)

## THE EXPERTS

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** From time to time, *LP News* prints viewpoints on issues in the news from "The Experts" — public policy professionals who write for libertarian think tanks and educational organizations.

### The paradox of homeland security alerts

**P**aradoxically, just prior to U.S. military action in Iraq, the homeland security terrorist alert threat level was raised because the U.S. war on Iraq carried with it increased risks of possible terrorist attacks from al Qaeda, Iraqi operatives, and freelance terrorists, even though the war itself was portrayed as a necessary act to reduce the terrorist threat.

Now that the war in Iraq is essentially over, the Bush administration has lowered the national terror alert level from "orange" — meaning a high risk of terrorist attack — to "yellow" or significant risk.

For starters, can someone please explain the difference between "high" and "significant"? And did raising the alert level prevent any terrorism? This falls into the same category as trying to prove a negative. To be sure, there were no terrorist attacks against the United States during the course of Operation Iraqi Freedom. But there is no way to know with any certainty whether this was due to Operation Liberty Shield (the code name for the alert level increase specifically tied to the war in Iraq) or because there were no attacks planned.

The nature of terrorism is to flow around obstacles and find the path of least resistance. So it makes sense that terrorists would choose not to attack if they knew that enhanced security measures were in place. The easier thing to do is wait until the United States is less alert to the possibility of an attack. Ironically, that is exactly what is communicated by lowering the alert status.

— **CHARLES V. PEÑA**, The Cato Institute, May 6, 2003

### Madonna hates what makes America great

**A**s her latest album hits the stores, pop star Madonna has ginned up headlines again by assaulting American values.

Reuters reports that Madonna told an interviewer that "We as Americans are completely obsessed and wrapped up in a lot of the wrong values — looking good, having cash in the bank, being perceived as rich, famous and successful... It's the most superficial part of the American dream."



Madonna's take on what's wrong with American values is misguided. The values that she sneers at here — desire for self-improvement and self-betterment in material terms — are central to almost everything that makes America lovable and great.

Trying to improve yourself and achieve wealth and renown in the classic American style, as Madonna did — by working hard and making something that satisfies and pleases your fellow man — is about as right as it gets in this material world.

Disrespecting those values is far more unpatriotic than what Dixie Chick Natalie Maines said about George W. Bush. A boycott in response to Madonna's comments might help the fading superstar by denying her the very thing that so troubles her — more cash in the bank.

We are not advocating such a boycott. Better for Madonna to struggle on in her self-forged chains of wealth, fame, and adoration; better that she shoulder the duty of upholding the self-gratifying capitalist system that does more to promote human happiness than all the phony-baloney compassion and moral crusading in history.

— **BRIAN DOHERTY**, www.Reason.com, April 24, 2003

### The modern politics of redistributionism

**A**medieval serf faced a maximum income tax rate of about one-third. A 19th-century slave paid about half of his earnings to his master (with the rest going to his own maintenance).

Add today's income tax rates to the many sales taxes, excise taxes, property taxes, and wealth taxes, and many taxpayers today can expect to pay an effective tax rate equivalent to that of 19th-century slaves — roughly 50%. The difference is that the taxman has grown more subtle over the last century-plus.

And today the politics of redistributionism assures that the more productive individuals will often be getting shortest end of the stick, [wrote] Paul Craig Roberts, research fellow at the Independent Institute.

"Democracy produces the opposite results of feudalism," writes Roberts. "Instead of an upper class living off the sweat of a lower class, the lower class lives off the sweat of an upper class. Philosophers such as John Rawls created a philosophy to justify the latter as 'moral' and the former as 'immoral,' but it all comes down to the same thing: Some people live off other people's activities."

— **THE INDEPENDENT INSTITUTE**, April 15, 2003

# Medical marijuana 'truth' bill gets introduced in U.S. House

**A** bill has been filed in Congress that would allow medical marijuana patients to introduce health, legal, and statutory evidence in court if they are accused of violating federal drug laws.

The bill, HR 1717 ("The Truth in Trials Act"), was introduced on April 10 by three California representatives: Rep. Sam Farr (D), Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D), and Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R). Fourteen other representatives, including Ron Paul (R-TX), co-sponsored the bill.

HR 1717 would allow individuals who live in states that have legalized medical marijuana — and who can prove they possessed, cultivated, or distributed marijuana for medical reasons — to introduce that fact as a valid defense in a federal trial. Currently, federal law does not allow for such a defense.

The bill was introduced after Oakland, California resident Ed Rosenthal was convicted in February on federal marijuana charges. Rosenthal, who legally grew cannabis under California's medical marijuana law, was forbidden to mention that fact at his trial.

After he was convicted and jury members learned the facts of the case, they apologized to Rosenthal and said he "did not get a fair trial."

"We were put in the untenable situation of having to pass judgment in a case where we were given half the evidence," said Marney Craig, one of the jurors in the Rosenthal trial.

Rosenthal now faces a five-year minimum sentence.

At a press conference introducing the bill, Rep. Sam Farr said the bill is "about due process. It's not about pot." He also said the bill is "an issue of state's rights."

#### Right direction

LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger said HR 1717 is a "step in the right direction" for the U.S. House.

"This bill would give medical marijuana patients who have been targeted by the federal government the opportunity to mount an honest defense," he said. "It isn't a perfect solution, since sick people could still face unfair and cruel prosecution, but it would at least shift the odds a little in their favor."

Under the language of the bill, "Any person facing prosecution or a proceeding for any marijuana-related offense under [the Controlled Substances Act] shall have the right to introduce evidence demonstrating that the marijuana-related activities for which the person stands accused were performed in compliance with State law regarding the medical use of marijuana, or that the property which is subject to a proceeding was possessed in compliance with State law regarding the medical use of marijuana."

The bill also states that at a trial, "should a finder of fact determine,

**"THE BILL ISN'T perfect, since sick people could still face unfair prosecution, but it would shift the odds a little."**

— **Ron Crickenberger**

be for nonmedical purposes."

Currently, eight states — Alaska, Hawaii, Washington, Oregon, Nevada, Colorado, California, and Maine — allow the cultivation and use of marijuana for medicinal purposes. In California, for example, patients can smoke and grow marijuana with a doctor's permission.

According to many doctors and researchers, the cannabis sativa plant (marijuana) is effective in treating glaucoma, certain forms of cancer, AIDS, multiple sclerosis, and other diseases.

However, under federal law, marijuana is considered a "dangerous and addictive narcotic," with "no acceptable medicinal use in treatment."

A spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) said Hastert would oppose HR 1717 because "anti-drug laws should be strengthened, not weakened."

## What They're Saying About The Free State Project:

"I think FSP is a TERRIFIC idea. I know a lot of people have botched 'new country' and 'let's take over a county' ideas, but FSP is different. Not only do they have the best plan I've seen for actually making it happen, it's one that doesn't ask people to front a bunch of cash or risk making any moves, until a critical mass has been reached. Even if it's a long shot, the chance of having an example of freedom at work — that 'shining city on the hill' — is too good to pass up."

*Louis James, free-market.net*

"Who has not dreamt of a place in which common sense and mutual respect replace most of the laws on the books and people don't need the threat of government in order just to behave themselves? But how many have ever done anything about it?"

*Keith Olbermann, MSNBC*

"What can be done now? Are there any signs that those Americans who want to unconstitutionally control the lives of others are going to let up soon? I say no, but there's a peaceful resolution proposed by Free State Project, whose motto is, 'Liberty in our lifetime.'"

*Walter Williams, economist and author*

"A free state might show the rest of the world what can be done ... Let's think seriously about this."

*Claire Wolfe, libertarian author*



**www.freestateproject.org**

# Court ruling will curb BCRA

Continued from Page 1

In surprisingly tough language, Judge Karen LeCraft Henderson called the BCRA "unconstitutional in virtually all of its particulars."

"It breaks faith with the fundamental principle — understood by our nation's Founding Generation, inscribed in the First Amendment and repeatedly reaffirmed by the United States Supreme Court — that 'debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open,'" she wrote in a separate document explaining the ruling.

The judges voted unanimously on only eight of 22 questions, and split 2-1 in various permutations on most key issues, according to news reports.

Because of its complexity, the Libertarian Party is still assessing the full impact of the ruling, said Neale.

"Nonetheless, it's clear that many aspects will be beneficial for third parties," he said. "For example, the ban on soft money would have made it impossible for us to take these contributions to build a headquarters, as Republicans and Democrats already have done."

"It would have also prevented us from selling ads to businesses in *LP News* or selling political buttons to our state parties, since that revenue is classified as contributions."

Other regulations mandated by the bill wouldn't matter much to Democrats and Republicans, which have the capacity to absorb the costs, but would have a disproportionate impact on third parties, said Neale.

## Collateral damage

"The bottom line is that in an attempt to rein in corruption among Democrats and Republicans, Congress inflicted collateral damage on third parties," he said.

One immediate effect of the court's ruling is that young Libertarians, such as 17-year-old Trevor Southerland of Georgia, will once again be allowed to participate in the political process.

Southerland, a founder of the Catoosa County LP in Georgia, was 16 when he became a plaintiff in the lawsuit last year.

Since the BCRA banned people under 18 from contributing to political parties — and since the Libertarian Party requires members to pay annual dues of \$25 — the law made it illegal for young people to be LP members, he noted.

"It's nice to be legal again!" he said. "It was scary to think that donating to a campaign could be illegal — kind of like living in the Soviet Union."

Indiana Libertarians also hailed the court's decision.

"This is great news," said Indiana LP State Chair Mark Rutherford. "BCRA would have chilled free speech [and] put an undue burden on the Libertarian Party."

The law would have forced the Indiana LP to use different money for federal and state activities, he said, making it a "nightmare" to pay for

**"IN AN ATTEMPT  
to rein in corruption  
among Democrats and  
Republicans, Congress  
inflicted damage on  
third parties."**

**—Geoffrey Neale**

the state convention in even-numbered years when the party selects both state and federal candidates.

Several plaintiffs in the case have already appealed the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. However, legal experts said it is unlikely the Supreme Court would hear the complicated appeal before the end of June, when its current term ends.

The BCRA had been known as the McCain-Feingold bill as it was moving through the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. The BCRA was signed into law by President George W. Bush in March 2002.

The Libertarian Party had joined the lawsuit against the BCRA in March

2002, saying the law "places an unfair burden on third parties, which have fewer resources and staff members to deal with its red-tape provisions."

Other Libertarian plaintiffs in the case include Harry Browne's RealCampaignReform.org, 2002 Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Carla Howell, and 2002 Massachusetts U.S. Senate candidate Michael Cloud.

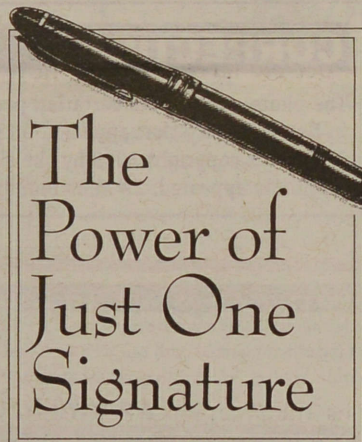
Neale said the confusion caused by the complicated appeals court ruling is proof that trying to legislate money out of the political process simply doesn't work.

## Congress selling favors

"The answer to getting the influence of money out of the political process is simple — if Congress wasn't selling political favors, nobody would be buying," he said.

The case was *McConnell vs. FEC*. Mitch McConnell is a Republican U.S. Senator from Kentucky.

Other plaintiffs in the lawsuit — who numbered more than 80 in all — included the ACLU, the NRA, the National Right to Life Committee, the James Madison Center for Free Speech, the AFL-CIO, the Republican National Committee, and the National Association of Broadcasters.



**D**o you think our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

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**But we need your help to do it. Join us today!**

## How the BCRA hurt Libertarians

**B**efore the May 2 court ruling, the Bipartisan Campaign Finance Reform Act (BCRA) did the following:

■ Banned "soft money" contributions to national political parties.

■ Prohibited certain soft-money financed advertisements. The law prohibited corporations, labor organizations, and special interest groups from political advertising within 60 days of a general election and 30 days of a primary election.

Such regulations had a disproportionate effect on smaller parties, said Steve Dasbach, who was the LP's executive director when the BCRA went into effect.

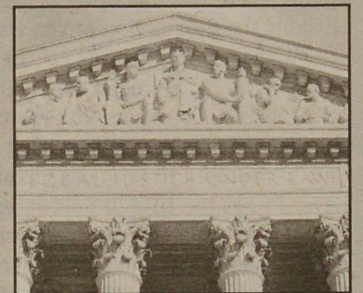
"It's a flat-out horrible law," he said at the time. "In addition to eliminating some sources of revenue, it greatly increases the administrative and regulatory burden on the party at all levels."

For example, the BCRA forced many LP state organizations to register with the FEC in order to transfer funds to the national LP or participate in any "federal election activity."

The BCRA also meant the national LP could not accept donations of more than \$25,000 annually from any individual.

And the party was forced to refuse money from corporations or organizations that are not "recognized political committees" with the Federal Elections Commission (FEC).

"That includes major *LP News* advertisers and LP mailing list renters who are non-profit corporations or incorporated businesses," said Dasbach. "More importantly, the BCRA will prohibit the national LP from accepting funds for memberships and literature from our own state and local affiliates — unless they comply with the BCRA regulations."



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**> I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.**

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## THE REVIEW

# Rand, Welch, and history

■ *Getting It Right* by William F. Buckley, Jr. Regnery Books, 311 pages, hardbound. \$24.95. To order, visit: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Reviewed by Brad Linaweaver

SPECIAL TO LP NEWS

This is a novel that had to be written eventually. *Getting It Right* tells the story of how divisions among American anti-statists of the early sixties did not weaken or destroy opposition to the Liberal Establishment. On the contrary, civil wars on the right led to stronger conservative and libertarian movements. There was one other benefit — victory in the Cold War without the destruction of the world.

William F. Buckley, Jr., is the ideal writer for the project because he played a unique role in the events of the time, uniting one set of political passions while jettisoning others in the creation of the *National Review* strategy that learned from Goldwater's defeat and contributed to Reagan's victory ... over the Soviet Union. They never forgot the title of Goldwater's book, *Why Not Victory?*

If one could take a time machine back to, say, 1964 and inform Buckley that in the early twenty-first century he would write a book about Ayn Rand and Robert Welch — with a supporting cast of characters including Barry Goldwater, Karl Hess, Murray Rothbard, JFK and even the author himself — he would not be surprised. He'd assume that he'd be putting together another collection of essays.

What the younger Buckley never dreamed was that he'd become as prolific a novelist as his bete noire, Gore Vidal. But unlike Vidal, he has demonstrated in his portrait of Ayn Rand that he can be respectful to an old foe. The passage where he expresses through the reactions of his young hero, Woodroe, a genuine appreciation for the artistry of Rand's prose is the sort of thing Vidal could never pull off.

Far from an exercise in spite, Buckley clearly enjoys the scene in Rand's Park Avenue apartment where Nathaniel Branden and she one-up each other on Buckley's shortcomings after *NR*'s publication of the Whittaker Chambers review of *Atlas Shrugged*. It's as if Buckley is inviting Branden to take revenge for WFB's quip that Nathaniel had been Rand's intellectual gigolo.

One caveat: one wonders if Buckley has yet to appreciate how inappropriate it was that Chambers employed the imagery of Nazi gas chambers against Rand, especially considering her Russian-Jewish extraction. She must have felt something similar to what Buckley experienced in 1968 when Vidal called him a crypto-Nazi on national television at the Chicago Democratic convention. Unlike today's world, words still had some vague meaning back then.

By his own lights, Buckley plays fair with the Objectivists. Many Objectivists might miss it because Buckley portrays Woodroe, the young Bircher, as often more reasonable than his Objectivist girlfriend, Leonora. This is only a playful way of Buckley expressing sympathy for the rank and file Bircher while observing that anyone has his hands full when dating an Objectivist.

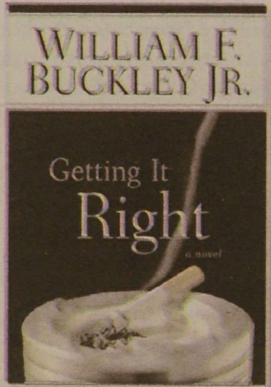
But the core of the novel is in what he says about the leadership of the Birchers. In comparison to them, Rand and her Objectivists come off surprisingly well.

This novel settles scores in the right place. The villains turn out to be Robert Welch and his even more bizarre fellow travelers. These guys were genuinely pathological. Their kind did as much to hurt the cause of anti-Communism as was suggested in the thriller, *The Manchurian Candidate* and the satire of *Dr. Strangelove*.

Buckley's novel is an ode to a period that influenced today's America in remarkable ways. Back then, the Liberal Establishment thought itself secure, especially after Goldwater's overwhelming defeat in 1964. But times were going to change.

The left had its moment during Vietnam. Now America is in a very different place. In mainstream media we have as many hysterical voices on the right as on the left. Victory at last!

■ **About the reviewer:** Author Brad Linaweaver won the Prometheus Award for Best Libertarian Novel for *Moon of Ice* (1989). He is co-facilitator of the Karl Hess Club in Los Angeles.



# Two phone calls from N.J. Libertarian saves town taxpayers millions of dollars

Libertarian activist Bill Schetlick saved taxpayers in the New Jersey town of Flemington several million dollars — and all it took was two telephone calls.

On April 15, town voters rejected a school bond issue that would have added "several additional millions of dollars in debt" to the town budget. The vote against the bond issue was 1,304 to 1,302.

That two-vote difference was thanks to Schetlick, who had decided to do a little telephone lobbying on the day of the vote.

"I telephoned two retired folks who generally go to the polls to vote on such matters," said Schetlick. "When I got through to them, they told me that their car was in the shop and that they would not get to the polls that day."

"I offered to drive them myself, opining that every vote would surely count in this matter. They agreed, and I drove them to and from the polls. They voted. Nice folks."

The next day, Schetlick read the news that the bond issue had failed by — yes — exactly two votes.

"Funny how that stuff happens sometimes," he said. "I'm feeling pretty good."

Schetlick said he decided to make the phone calls because "typically, fewer than 20% of the total registered voters in the town show up to vote in these plebiscites; therefore, each vote carries added significance."

"Boy, it was really true this time!"

**"TYPICALLY, FEWER  
than 20% of the  
registered voters show  
up to vote; therefore,  
each vote carries  
added significance."**

—Bill Schetlick

Schetlick's lobbying also won him some unexpected publicity: His actions were mentioned on April 21 by Gannett New Jersey columnist Bob Ingle, who noted that Schetlick's "good deed was rewarded. The budget failed by two votes."

The bond issue, had it passed, would have raised "several additional millions of dollars in debt, concurrently increasing our property taxes, to build some new and additional facilities for the local public high schools," said Schetlick.

"The local educrats, teachers, ad-

ministrators, and construction unions — those that stood to directly gain if the bond issue was passed — were all in favor."

Unfortunately, said Schetlick, the bond issue may not stay defeated: The same issue will be on the ballot again in September.

## Count on it

"I'll have to go out again and start all over," he said. "Count on it."

Schetlick, 51, is a retired lawyer and longtime Libertarian Party activist. He joined the party "circa 1973-74," and served as New Jersey LP State Chair in 1974-1975. He also ran for State Assembly in 1976.


Now, he said, he spends "a great deal of time and effort attempting to influence and hopefully redefine the parameters of the political debate in the N.J. media. And to a more or less degree, they are listening."

Schetlick has also recently started attending Flemington town meetings — and he is now known as "that Libertarian guy who's always smiling, politely disagreeing, and otherwise making trouble," he said.

"So be it. You only live once."

## CORRECTION

The photograph of a Libertarian participating in the peace march in New York City that appeared on page 3 of the April 2003 issue of *LP News* is copyright 2003 by the HollywoodInvestigator.com, where it originally appeared. *LP News* regrets omitting proper photo credit.

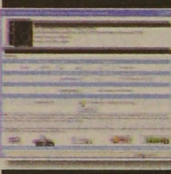


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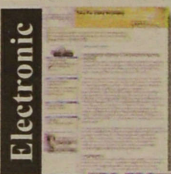


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# "I love the Libertarian Viewpoint. Outstanding!"



"They will attract new members better than anything else I've seen in my years of membership."  
—Richard G. Reed, Los Angeles, California

"I wanted to let you know that one of the last editions of LP News was EXCELLENT, including the [Libertarian Viewpoint] insert, which gave lots of information on the LP, perfect for spreading the word. I've long felt a change was needed for outreach info. This is just the ticket!"  
—Deb Hamm, Westminster Colorado

## The Libertarian Viewpoint — a 8-page, full-color outreach newspaper!

Ideal for leaving at your local coffeehouse, supermarket, student union building, or community center. Contains articles on corporate welfare, crime, poverty, foreign policy, and more — along with brief "Fact Files" that offer fascinating soundbites, factoids, and perspectives. Add to that some glowing media quotes about the Libertarian Party and full-color photographs, and you have a professional-looking, eye-catching newspaper that asks readers to "imagine a better America."

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## LP Literature & Books

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto. Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost:** \$11.95

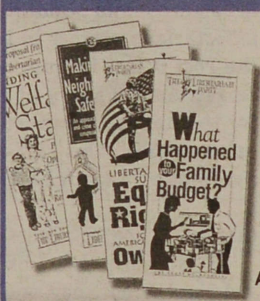
■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners — unlike the Republican Party, which constantly sells them out. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost:** \$1 each

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending — and points out that the federal government spends more than \$1 million every five seconds. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

## 2-COLOR ★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES ★ 4-COLOR

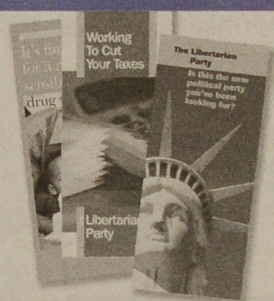


### 2-COLOR

- Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again
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■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost:** \$1 for 100

## Bumperstickers

\$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue).

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

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

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

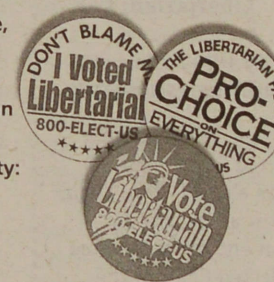
## Buttons

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

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-ELECT-US



## Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. Includes everything from creating a campaign timeline, deciding on issues, raising money, working with volunteers, dealing with the media, and organizing a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. A must read! **Cost:** \$3.00 each

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

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

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

## Large Banners

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White lettering on bold blue background. The first line says: "Libertarian Party." The second line says: "800-ELECT-US." Perfect for LP meetings, state or county conventions, OPH booths, etc. **Cost:** \$40 each

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■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH / VOTE LIBERTARIAN.** Red, white, & blue on sturdy foamboard. Measures a big 24" x 18". Perfect for campaigns. **Cost:** \$8.00 each.

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There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 2-3 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party.

## Ready-to-use Literature

Q'NTY	COST
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_____	OUT OF STOCK New Vision for America"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "Is This/New Political Party...?"
_____	OUT OF STOCK Sensible Drug Policy"
_____	Brochure (4-c): "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____	Brochure: "What Happened/ Family Budget?"
_____	Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
_____	Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
_____	Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____	OUT OF STOCK 100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
_____	America's Libertarian Heritage booklet
_____	Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
_____	World's Smallest Political Quiz
_____	"Million Dollar Bill" Literature

## Bumper Stickers

_____	Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian
_____	I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
_____	ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN
_____	Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US

## Banners

_____	"LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" x 5'w)
_____	Second line says: "1-800-ELECT-US"

## Yard Signs

_____	OUT OF STOCK /Vote Libertarian
-------	--------------------------------

## Tools for Campaigning

_____	Libertarian Political Action Booklet
_____	Statue of Liberty logo master
_____	LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
_____	Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

## Books for Sale

_____	OUT OF STOCK Doesn't Work
_____	By Harry Browne
_____	Libertarianism In One Lesson
_____	By David Bergland

## Buttons

_____	Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian
_____	VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-ELECT-US
_____	Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

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## POLITICS 2003

### South Park, Kennedy, and an astrologer

■ In Minnesota, **Ron Helwig** was elected State Chair. In Virginia, **Shaun Whelden** was elected Chair of the Arlington LP. In Indiana, **Ken Bisson** was re-elected Chair of the Steuben County LP. In Pennsylvania, **Ken Krawchuk** was elected for a second term as State Chair. In Colorado, **Norm Olsen** was elected State Chair — and said his goal will be to “build a strong and effective organization.” In Utah, economics professor **Kerk Phillips** was elected Chair of the Utah County LP.

■ **TV News:** Cute **Kennedy** (yes, she has only one name) is no longer quite as Republican as she used to be. The former VJ on MTV — now host of the Game Show network's *Friend or Foe?* — told the April 12 *TV Guide*, “I consider myself a Republican. A little bit Republican and a little bit Libertarian.” California State University (Fullerton) Libertarians hosted a three-week series of public meetings that explored libertarian tendencies of *South Park*. Each meeting featured edited Libertarian highlights of the Comedy Central show, a full episode, discussion, and free pizza. “The first week saw the highest attendance of any meeting,” said LP activist **Doug Scribner**.

■ **Political news:** In South Carolina, **Steve Cain** won 2% of the vote in a special election for State Senate (District 18) on April 15. In Indiana, two Libertarians will run for Elkhart city council: **Rick Bowen** (6th District) and **Harriet Engle** (At-Large). In Florida, in a two-way race for a seat on the Jacksonville city council (District 2), **Adam Nathaniel Davis** won 25% of the vote on April 15. In Oregon, LP State Chair **Mitch Shults** is running for a seat on the Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue board. The election is May 20 [after *LP News* went to press]. The Bartholomew County LP (Indiana) is running a straw poll that asks: “Who would make the best LP presidential candidate in 2004?” Check it out and cast your vote at: [www.1492.ws/](http://www.1492.ws/). In Texas, in a special May 3 election for U.S. House (District 19), **Richard (Chip) Peterson** came in 12th of 17 candidates with 0.2% of the vote (153 votes of 58,118 cast).

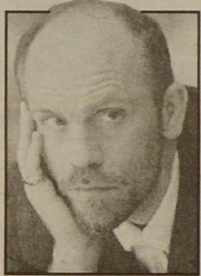
■ **Miscellaneous:** In Pennsylvania, *Scranton Times* political cartoonist **Dennis Draughon** told delegates at the state LP convention that he is a registered Libertarian. According to *The Age*, a Melbourne, Australia newspaper, quirky actor **John Malkovich** “considers himself a libertarian [and] a liar (but only to entertain himself).” In Washington, DC, **Christopher A. Preble** was named director of foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. In Massachusetts, **Cris Crawford** was given a Lifetime Achievement Award at the state convention. In Michigan, the Ottawa County Libertarians have Bill of Rights tee-shirts for sale for \$15. Order at: [www.oclp.org/Events/liberty\\_store/liberty\\_store.html](http://www.oclp.org/Events/liberty_store/liberty_store.html).

■ In Virginia, **James Curtis** was elected Chair of the Jefferson Area Libertarians. In Michigan, **Bill Gelineau** was elected State Chair. In Alaska, petitioning superman **Scott Kohlhaas** was elected State Chair. In Delaware, **George Smith** was elected State Chair at the state convention, where delegates also passed a motion endorsing the Free State Project. In Michigan, **Charles Kainz** was elected Chair of the Wayne County LP. In California, **Philip Heath** has organized a college Libertarian group at California State University (Fullerton).

■ **Department of Serious Confusion:** In FrontPageMagazine.com (April 4), **Stanley Aronowitz**, a professor of sociology at the N.Y. City University, said he is a “libertarian socialist.” A longtime leftist, he explained that he adds the “libertarian” qualifier because he is “vehemently anti-Soviet and anti-Leninist.” We’re waiting for him to identify himself as a meat-eating vegetarian and a religious atheist.

■ **Miscellaneous:** Prominent astrologer **Richard Nolle** says he’s a registered Libertarian. Nolle said, “I’m a registered Libertarian because that party’s platform by and large describes whatever political leanings I do have; namely toward a constitutionally limited, minimalist government.” In Illinois, at the annual state convention, awards were given to: **Mike Ginsberg** (Bushell Award for Eternal Vigilance), **Jim Young** (Activist of the Year), and **Jerry Kolin** (Rookie of the Year).

■ **LP headquarters news:** Effective May 2, Marketing and Development Director **Mark Schreiber** was no longer a salaried LP employee. Instead, the Libertarian National Committee is planning to hire Schreiber on a contract basis to work on the party’s “branding project.” LP Political Director **Ron Crickenberger** was elected vice chair of the Committee for Free and Open Elections (COFOE) at its meeting in Lancaster, Pennsylvania on March 29. Also, Crickenberger is scheduled to take a 10-week vacation — from early May until approximately mid-July — to work down a large accrual of personal leave.



■ **John Malkovich:** Libertarian, liar.

# Libertarians rally on Tax Day

Continued from Page 1

action for Americans who are tired of paying high taxes: “Vote against parties who continue to raise taxes year after year — namely Republicans and Democrats.”

The rally was covered by the local newspaper and two television stations, said Healey.

■ **Indiana:** The Indiana University College Libertarians and the Monroe County LP earned “smiles and laughs” at a rally at the main Post Office in Bloomington, reported local activist Erin Hollinden.

“[We got] honks at our ‘Honk If You Hate Taxes’ signs, and smiles and laughs at the million dollar bills,” she said. “[We also got] challenging discussions from several passersby.”

■ **Nevada:** About a dozen members of the Washoe County LP protested taxes at the Post Office on Vassar Street in Reno.

“[We got] generally a positive response,” said Washoe County LP Chair Bob Tregilus. “Unfortunately, Tax Day is always nasty, windy, and cold in Reno and it is hard to get folks to roll down their windows.”

However, even car-bound taxpayers seemed to enjoy the Libertarians’ Burma Shave-style signs, he said.

The signs read: “TAX FORMS / YOU’LL SOON SEE ‘EM / COLLECTING DUST / IN SOME MUSEUM. / VOTE LIBERTARIAN!” and “THE U.S. TAX CODE / IS A CRIME / THOSE WHO WROTE IT / SHOULD BE DOING TIME. / VOTE LIBERTARIAN!”

All four of the local television stations interviewed LP participants, said Tregilus.

■ **Tennessee:** Members of the Hamilton County LP put on a show for taxpayers at the main postal facility on Shallowford Road in Chattanooga.

At the event, Libertarians displayed an abridged version of the Internal Revenue Code.

“Not a whole [Code],” said county Vice Chair William Bolen. “That wouldn’t fit into a truck.”

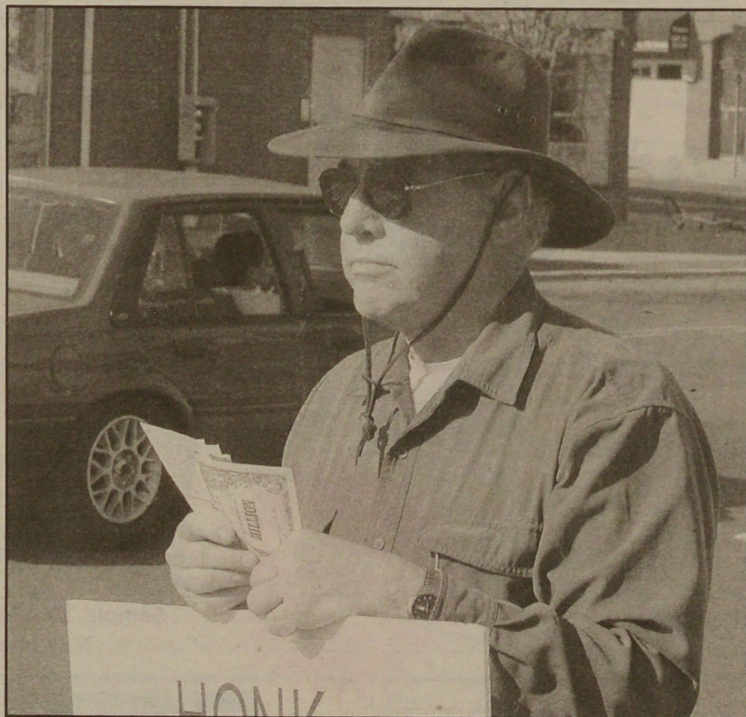
A Libertarian dressed as Thomas Jefferson made a guest appearance at the rally, and Libertarians read the poem “Green Eggs and Pork” to bemused taxpayers, said Bolen.

LP spokesman Jonathan McGlumphy also took the opportunity to remind Channel 9 News about the real tax burden facing Americans.

“You’ve heard of the so-called Tax Freedom Day, the day up until which you work to pay the government, and then you work for yourself,” he said. “That’s been pushed to, I believe, the end of May. So people are working for almost five months for the government — and then for themselves.”

■ **Washington, DC:** American University Libertarians conducted a late tax protest at the city’s Main Post Office from 10:00 pm to midnight, said Aaron Biterman, president of the AU Libertarians.

■ **Pennsylvania:** The Luzerne County LP organized a rally at the Wilkes Barre Post Office, where LP activist Betsy Summers carried a sign



■ **Somerset and Middlesex county Libertarians protest in front of the Post Office in Dunellen, New Jersey. Above: Barry Allen waits for the next last-minute taxpayer. Right: John Paff and Jim Harshman pass out literature.**

that said: “The IRS: Federal Mafia.”

“[Taxpayers], they look at my sign and they laugh, they say, ‘Right on, the federal mafia,’” said Summers.

The Montgomery County LP hosted a tax rally at the IRS service center on Roosevelt Boulevard in Philadelphia.

“We had a great time promoting liberty,” said James Babb, chairman of the Montgomery County Libertarian Committee. “Of course, the public’s response to our message was ultra supportive, even from many IRS employees. That made it fun.”

Meanwhile, in Meadville, members of the Crawford County LP passed out million dollar bills and displayed a sign that read “Big Taxes Equals Big Government,” reported Daniel L. Beatty, chair of the Crawford County Libertarian Party.

■ **California:** In San Francisco, Libertarians organized a rally at the Montgomery Street BART/Muni station, where the IRS had set up a “service” table.

Libertarians carried signs that read: “A refund is like a mugger giving you change,” “Refund = Interest-Free Loan to Uncle Sam,” and “How hard did they ‘service’ you this year?”

“Since the war started, most San Franciscans ignore all but the most outlandish protests, so we had to be more creative and controversial than in past years to get people’s attention,” said San Francisco LP Vice Chair Rob Power.

Libertarians did face one attempt to get them to leave, said Power.

“Some guy from the IRS or BART told our people to leave, and picked up the phone to call the police,” he said. “When the police arrived, they verified that we had as much right to be there as the IRS did.”



■ **South Carolina:** Greenville County LP members hoisted “Honk If You Hate Taxes” signs at the Washington Street Post Office in Greenville.

“We’re out here every year [to remind taxpayers that] we’d like to see income taxes repealed,” said LP activist Chuck Fields.

■ **New Hampshire:** State Libertarians used Tax Day as an opportunity to reach out to potential voters at the Daniel Street Post Office in Portsmouth.

“We think it’s a good day to do outreach because people are annoyed by having to [file taxes],” said LP activist George Reich. “The federal government’s stealing you blind with these taxes. [Libertarians] want to look at everything the federal government does” and decide what is really necessary.

N.H. Libertarians also hosted Tax Day events in Nashua and Manchester, said LP activist Howard Wilson.

See **TAX DAY** Page 15

# Tax Day rallies generate 'smiles, honks, cheers'

Continued from Page 14

■ **Indiana:** A blare of car horns was heard at the Michigan City Post Office — the result of the "Honk If You Want to Abolish the IRS" signs carried by members of the local LP.

"I believe we are being taken advantage of by our government," LP activist Lois Thatcher told taxpayers. "We're taxed on food, water, cars."

County LP Chair Greg Kelter reminded tax-filers that less government would mean less taxes.

"No matter how much they raise [taxes], there will never be enough," he said. "The only way you can reduce taxes is by reducing the role of government."

Another LP sign at the event read: "The IRS. They've got what it takes to take what you've got."

■ **California:** Members of the Sacramento LP showed up at the Post Office on Industrial Boulevard — and got a surprisingly warm reception from Post Office workers.

"Postal workers who remembered us from past years greeted us when we arrived," said Sacramento LP Chair D.A. Tuma.

■ **Virginia:** Libertarians blanketed the state on Tax Day, with rallies in at least five cities and towns.

In Charlottesville, the Jefferson Area Libertarians "set up a small info booth that featured LP material and a goodly number of American flags," said J.A.L. Secretary Jim Lark. "The event went well; people were reasonably receptive [and] several expressed interest in becoming involved with our group."

In Arlington, Libertarians hosted a rally at the Clarendon Street Post Office — where chocolate proved to be a popular palliative for frenzied taxpayers.

"The big draw was [event organizer] Shaun Whelden and his bag of Hershey's kisses," said LP State Chair Marianne Volpe. "Everyone took some candy and a piece of literature."

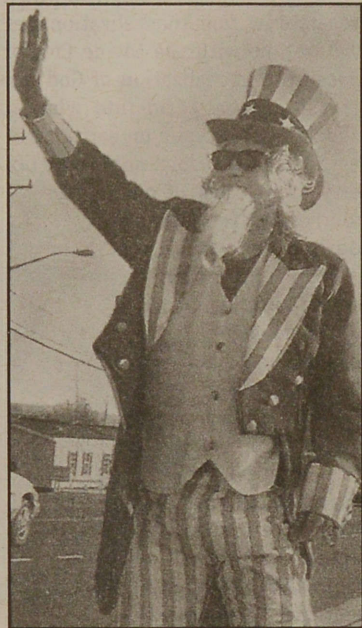
Harrisonburg/Rockingham County Libertarians "had great fun" at their Tax Day protest at the local Post Office in Harrisonburg, said county Chair Dave Briggman.

"My Uncle Sam costume required a \$37 investment, and gave me the experience to better plan future tax protests," he said.

In Lynchburg, Libertarians were told by the postmaster that they would not be allowed to set up a table on Post Office property, said county activist Dave Overstreet.

"Next year, if they again reject our request for a table next to the building, we [will] try real hard to field a late-afternoon effort at one of the [other Post Offices] that have public sidewalks," he said.

In Richmond, nine Libertarians



■ **Above:** Libertarian Dave Briggman — dressed as Uncle Sam — waves at passersby at a Tax Day rally in Harrisonburg, Virginia.

■ **Above right:** Libertarians (l-r) Ken Evans, James Babb, and John Haley stage an "annual public display of disgust" in front of the IRS Service Center in northeast Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Right: Obeying all "truth in advertising" laws, University of North Carolina (Greensboro) Libertarians Allison Jaynes and Sara Ward illustrate what Republicans and Democrats really stand for at a rally in Greensboro.

"came to wave signs and pass out literature" at the main Post Office, said Henrico County LP Chair Leonard Harris.

"While there was the occasional statist yelling at us, including one who told us to 'go back to Iraq' — I guess he couldn't read and thought we were war protesters — most people were receptive and many asked for more information," he said.

■ **West Virginia:** The Monongalia County LP hosted a Tax Day rally at the main Post Office in Morgantown.

The Libertarians' most prominent sign — "End the federal income tax. Make April 15 just another day" —

generated considerable response, said county Chair Helen Tucker.

"Passersby were very opinionated upon seeing the sign," she said. "We had some people tell us that they like paying taxes or that they want to increase taxes. We also met people who voiced agreement with the idea. Most people simply asked questions."

■ **Washington state:** Libertarian protesters at the Post Office in Bellingham did triple duty: They collected signatures for an anti-tax ini-



tiative, handed out LP literature, and generally had fun, said Whatcom County Vice Chair Bruce Guthrie.

"The protest went quite well," he said. "We got 20 signatures on the I-807 initiative [to require a two-thirds vote to raise taxes], we gave out about 300 pieces of Libertarian literature, [and] we had some fun, political conversations."

■ **Missouri:** Libertarians got a warm response at a rally held at the downtown St. Louis Post Office, reported Elle McCarthy.

"The reaction from the crowd and late filers was overwhelmingly supportive," she said. "Some late filers even stood with the LP and held signs."

■ **New Jersey:** Libertarians of Somerset and Middlesex Counties ran into an "incensed" postmaster at the main Post Office in Dunellen, reported LP activist John Paff.

After Libertarians had been carrying signs and handing out \$1 Million Bills for almost an hour, the postmaster "came out of the Post Office exactly two minutes before 5:00, and demanded that we leave, and threatened to call the police," he said.

"We told him that we planned to leave anyway at 5:00 pm, but advised him that the sidewalk in front of the Post Office was a traditional public forum where neither he nor the police could suppress our First Amend-

ment rights."

The Libertarians left at 5:00 without further incident, said Paff.

■ **Colorado:** Libertarians faced "numbing wind chill and driving rain" at their Tax Day rally at the main Post Office on Johnson Road in Golden.

"Nature dictated events of the day," said Rand Fanshler. "We had to retire to vehicles more than once in order to warm up from the numbing wind chill and driving rain. Eventually, our signs literally fell to pieces due to the rain and wind."

Despite the poor conditions, "I believe we kept alive the fire of freedom" at the rally, he said.

■ **South Carolina:** A donkey and an elephant made guest appearances at the Tax Day rally sponsored by the Guilford County LP and the University of North Carolina (Greensboro) Libertarians at the Murrow Boulevard Post Office in Greensboro.

"[Two] college Libertarians were dressed in suits with a paper-mâché donkey mask and a paper-mâché elephant mask," said Jeffrey Bentley. "They had paper-mâché guns and held up signs, 'Give me your money' and 'Give me your rights.'"

The costumes generated "thumbs up, smiles, honks, cheers, and comments of support," he said.

■ **Utah:** The Salt Lake County LP organized a Tax Day protest at the main Post Office in Salt Lake City.

Handing out million dollar bills, Libertarians carried signs that read: "Libertarians Believe No Taxes are Good Taxes."

"We got many laughs and had a great time," said Aaron Turpen, the county LP press liaison.

■ **Indiana:** Libertarians from Floyd, Clark, and Harrison counties gathered in front of the Elm Street Post Office in New Albany to remind taxpayers that they have a friend.

"We just want to plant the seed that they are not alone," said county Chair Grace Martin. "There is someone else out there who believes what they do. [Libertarians] trust average people to spend the money they earned more than we trust the government to."

Mike Martin, vice chair of the Floyd County LP, wore a cardboard box as a symbolic taxpayer who had given the "shirt off his back" to the IRS.

"His outfit created quite a stir," said Clark County LP Chair Debbie Harbeson. "Most people got a big kick out of it. A man from a neighboring business came over with a nice big cardboard box and told us it was for Mike, so he had a change of 'clothes' if he wanted one."

The event also reminded at least one taxpayer about the importance of civil liberties, said Harbeson.

"A lady and her son pulled up and when her boy asked her what we were doing she said, 'They are protesting taxes.' And her son said, 'They can do that?' And she said, 'Yeah.'"

"So after doing postal business, she brought her son to [us] and said, 'I just wanted to come up and introduce my son to someone who is doing his duty.' Then she looked at [us] and said, 'Thank God we can do this in the United States.'"

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## THE FORUM

# What is the relationship between God and liberty?

The dominant school of libertarian thought, which takes its orientation from Ayn Rand, is characterized by atheism and ethical humanism. Like the classical liberalism of our Founders, it is based on reason and Natural Law.

But unlike the classical liberalism of our Founders, it is incomplete because it has little-to-no recognition of the source of reason and Natural Law. There is no transcendent and eternal basis in it for the liberty which libertarians rightly extol.

Reason and Natural Law are necessary but not sufficient for enduring liberty. The Randian school ignores the fundamental principle which our Founders stated in the Declaration of Independence: God is the source of our liberty, our rights, our justice and our human dignity — and all else which creates a good society and a society which is good.

To our Founders, that was self-evident. Everything else flows from that. To derive a theory of liberty from mere human reasonableness is to build one's house on sand.

Conservatives, with their emphasis of godly living, have preserved that key insight of the American theory of liberty.

However, they don't grasp its proper application. They try to legis-

late morality and force it on everyone to the point of thought control. They end up shooting themselves in the foot because their legislative agenda actually reduces liberty while enlarging government. Think of the federal Department of Education or the War on Drugs, and how much tax money is wasted on their totally ineffective actions by an ever-expanding bureaucracy.

The task now is for libertarians to learn from conservatives about the theory of liberty, and for conservatives to learn from libertarians about the practice of liberty.

### Spirit of Liberty

John Adams called God "the Spirit of Liberty." Why is that insight absent from libertarianism?

George Washington and other Founders stated that morality cannot survive in the absence of the religious principle, i.e., reverence for God as the Supreme Lawmaker and Judge. Why is that insight absent from libertarianism?

The dilemma which libertarianism vs. conservatism sets before us is this: An immoral people is incapable of self-government, but so is a people

By John White

totally dominated by authoritarian moralists.

The solution? God must become central to libertarian thought; liberty must become central to conservative thought.

Liberty is actually a subset of freedom and refers only to the social-political aspect of human existence. Freedom embraces every aspect of our being, from the material through the emotional, intellectual and social-political to its highest aspect, the spiritual.

The essence of freedom is having a choice. Our God-given free will allows us to choose, for good or ill, on all levels of our existence. However, since all freedom comes from God, we have an inherent responsibility to use it properly — i.e., morally and lawfully — to fulfill our obligation to our Creator.

Freedom and responsibility are therefore intimately related. Without responsibility, liberty becomes libertinism or immoral behavior. Freedom is never license to do as we please, but only — as Lord Acton, the Catholic author of *The History of Freedom*, put it — to do as we ought.

A synonym for spiritual freedom is liberation. The world's religions and sacred traditions are agreed that the purpose of human life is to attain lib-

eration or enlightenment. They say our Creator, our Divine Source wants us to remove from ourselves all the spiritual blindness, self-centered thought and immoral behavior which separates us from the realization that we are one with the Divine Creator because that realization of God can transform the world into what it should be — heaven on earth.

Spiritual freedom, not merely liberty, is the goal of our human journey. Our Founders recognized a corollary principle: Humanity is made in the image and likeness of God, and the purpose of our life is to glorify God by expressing God in every aspect of our existence — i.e., by attaining liberation/enlightenment/spiritual freedom as the basis for our daily living.

That alone can provide an enduring basis not only for social-political freedom or liberty, but also for freedom from vice, immorality, negative emotions, self-aggrandizement, anti-social behavior and everything else which prevents us from recognizing the presence of God in all others and thereby building a heaven on earth. Our choice, not simply as Americans but as human beings, is between that and a godless society.

Some of our Founders — notably, Franklin and Adams — spoke of America as the New Jerusalem and the New Israel. They did not mean a Jewish nation; rather, they meant a God-centered society whose collective will was to glorify God and reflect heaven on earth.

They rightly separated church and state so that, to uphold freedom of

conscience, no particular denomination could ever become established as the state religion. But they never separated God and state. How could they? Through their four references to deity in the Declaration of Independence ("Nature's God," "Creator," "Supreme Judge of the World" and "divine Providence"), God is proclaimed as the mighty author of our being and the moral authority of our society — the very basis of America.

Without a recognition of God as the central fact of the American theory of government, libertarianism will be unable to respond to the depths of the human hunger for freedom.

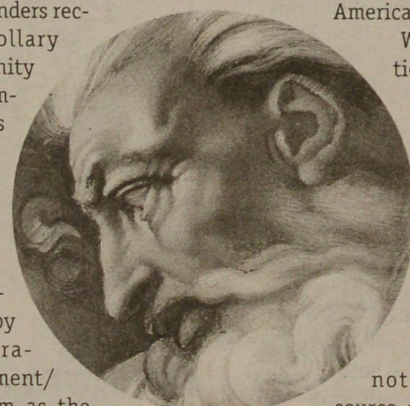
That hunger will not end until the source of freedom is recognized and embraced, thereby yielding spiritual freedom and its by-product, true and enduring happiness.

### Libervative

The name I offer for this perspective which recognizes both the strengths and the shortcomings of the libertarian and the conservative perspectives, and which integrates the best of them while discarding their errors, is an amalgam word: libervative.

It denotes spiritual freedom and the source of spiritual freedom as the basis of everything in our lives, including liberty. It also explains why it is right to pledge allegiance to America and to declare that we are one nation under God.

■ **About the author:** John White is an author and an LP member. He lives in Cheshire, Connecticut.



# The need to support our troops never ends (even after the war)

In the wake of our victory in Iraq, my thoughts of how to best support our troops again shift.

Gone is the acceptance of events in the here and now, and praying for minimum bloodshed and swift victory. I return to thoughts of how to support them in the future, how to apply the lessons and memories of this war while it is still fresh.

Did I say war? Yes, the first thing we must remember is this should have been a war. Not an incursion, not a unilateral uni-branch Executive Order enforcement of a multinational resolution. This should have been a war, declared by Congress in recognition that our troops deserve no less.

### One small security

In the support of our troops, first and foremost is granting them their Constitutional protection to a declared war by a diverse body of elected officials who must face a vote every two years. This provides our troops with the one small security of not being put in harm's way for a war without broad national support. Not support as determined in a media

poll, but a roll call vote of our representatives in Washington.

Our soldiers fight to defend the same Constitution our president and Congressmen swear to uphold. Shame on our politicians for not facing their duty. Civilians have the easier duty of supporting our troops by holding politicians accountable to this charge. Shame on us if we do not.

I must also support our troops by not forgetting. I must not forget the recent profiles of those who gave the "last full measure of devotion."

Nor must I forget the stories of young soldiers who were forced time and again to make split decisions of life and death; life and death decisions for themselves, their comrades, their enemy, and the innocent caught in-between.

I must remember the pilot who steered a guided bomb away from a target bridge at the last moment when a civilian vehicle suddenly appeared on it, the tank gunner who opened fire on a suspected suicide car

By Scott T. Smith



bomber, later to discover it was not.

I will remember the infantry who bravely held their fire in the haze of battle and avoided firing on friendly soldiers returning from behind enemy lines, and the air defense crews who

mistook friendly aircraft for enemy attack.

Imagine being put in a position to make those decisions at 19 or 20 years of age. Imagine doing so after exhaustion has set in from humping chemical gear, helmet, body armor, weapons, ammo, food, water and medical kit across the desert. Imagine living with your decision the rest of your life.

Our leaders asked, we asked, these young men and women to do this for us. Risk death. Kill or spare in a split second. Live with it for a lifetime. We asked this of them.

### War sycophants

I must remember those who were gleeful as the war unfolded. People who were so enthusiastic about what these young men and women were doing. War sycophants who admired and chortled over the techniques and technology of death. War sickos who tried to imbue honor, glory and courage into the raw, cold physics of modern killing. Who professed to love our troops while stoking ego, personal pride and self worth on someone

else's sacrifice, someone else's war. Who clamored for more while risking nothing themselves.

It was these war makers and war cheerleaders who commanded our young warriors to risk death and to kill. Who brazenly demanded mothers to risk their sons and daughters, children to risk their parents. Yet the war makers, the war cheerleaders, they risked nothing. Neither they nor theirs faced the physical and mental horrors. They lead from behind. Shame on them.

As I leave behind my cozy cable news war, I must remember to continue supporting the troops and their loved ones who will forever carry their war. As I drive my comfortable car from my comfortable home to my comfortable job, I must remember those who will never escape from their war to my comfortable life. I must continue to support them, those before them, and those who will come after.

If I forget, shame on me.

■ **About the author:** Scott Smith is an LP member who lives in Ohio.

# What Iraq needs is Western values

**E**stimated to cost as much as \$200 billion, the plan for rebuilding post-war Iraq is astounding in its scope — from repairing roads and sewer systems to revamping the Iraqi government payroll system and printing school textbooks. Yet no one is paying attention to the deepest foundations needed to support a free and prosperous society. What the Arab world really needs is not a transfusion of foreign money, but a transfusion of crucial Western ideas.

Although the Middle East has abundant supplies of oil and other resources, its people are shockingly poor. This is true not only of Iraq, but also of most of its neighbors. In Muslim countries from Morocco to Bangladesh, the average annual income is only half that of the world average.

## Fascist

Tyranny by monarchs, clerics, or dictators is the norm. Censorship of the press is flagrant, even in so-called moderate countries like

Egypt. There is no rule of law, and in the few places that claim to have representative government, it is mere window dressing. Syria's laws, for instance, guarantee the fascist Baath party two-thirds of the seats in parliament.

The plight of the Middle East is not an accident. It is born of and reinforced by certain ideas: the precepts of Islam, which subordinate reason

to faith and the individual to the collective.

In Islam, piety demands the total surrender of one's life to Allah — and to those claiming to be His representatives on earth. In practice a Muslim has no right to his own life. Whatever he earns from his effort is his only in trust and by permission; all wealth belongs to Allah. To purify himself from the supposedly base activity of earning a living, a Muslim is *required* by Islamic law to pay "zakat," an alms tax owed to his community. Property rights are anathema to Islam. The individual's life and values may be sacrificed to the needs and claims of his family, clan, tribe — or ruler.

## By Elan Journo

Most fundamentally, however, it is his mind — his rational judgment — that a Muslim must surrender in order to demonstrate his faith in his religion's key tenets. Muslims may eat at McDonald's, listen to rock-

and-roll, and wear Western fashions; but these are only superficial changes masking a deep-seated hostility to any idea that contradicts the dictates of traditional Muslim faith — to "Westoxification," as they call it.

But to subordinate reason to faith is to chain the individual's mind, allowing only repetition of dogma and obedience to authority.

While life in the West has become

longer and safer thanks to galloping advances in science, science and technology in the Arab-Islamic world have stagnated. Though Egypt has nearly 70 million inhabitants, it has only 3,782 active research scientists — while Israel, the lone Western state in the region, has fewer than 6 million people but more than 11,000 research scientists, and is noted for its high-tech industries.

The pitiful state of Arab science, the tyrannies, the economic misery — these all stem from the Muslims' rejection of a cardinal Western value: *reason*. Rationality means a dedication to basing one's conclusions only on evidence and logic — and respect for reason entails respect for the individual's mind and thus for his freedom to think and to control his own life.

## The Enlightenment

Respect for reason reached its height in the West during America's founding era, the 18th-century Enlightenment. After centuries of struggle, the Enlightenment thinkers sidelined religion and allowed science and reason to flourish. The result was the Industrial Revolution and a culture still propelled by a torrent of innovations that have raised our standard of living to glorious new heights — from the horse-drawn buggy to routine air travel to the ability to land a man on the moon.

If it is to enjoy prosperity and freedom, the new Iraq needs to share in this intellectual legacy, and learn the meaning and value of the Enlightenment's respect for reason.

■ **About the author:** *Elan Journo* is a writer for the Ayn Rand Institute in Irvine, California.

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## THE VOLUNTEER

# What to expect when serving in public office

**L**et's assume that you've been swept into an elective office. What's the first thing you should do? *Learn*.

Just because you were clever enough to get elected doesn't mean you know much about your new position. Even if you've done your homework, the majority of your fellow board or council members have spent at least 24 months wrestling with the kinds of issues you're now going to experience from the "inside." You're definitely the new kid on the block!

Get to know the chief executive of your agency — he or she wants to help and please you, because you're one third of votes that can end his or her career!

And don't make the mistake of believing that because the individual

has a vested interest in the system, he or she's going to try to fool you

on every issue every time. Most often, you'll get realistic information that you merely have to sift through your "government doesn't work" filter.

While your principles will guide you on issues, they won't give you the background information you need to apply your standards in the best possible manner. That takes learning.

## By Geoff Braun

■ **About the author:** *Geoff Braun* serves as Secretary of the Placentia Library District board of trustees in Orange County, California. This essay reprinted from the April 2003 issue of the *Orange County Libertarian*.



## WHY DID THE CHICKEN CROSS THE ROAD?

**W**hy did the chicken cross the road? Here are some modern, political answers:

### ■ Al Gore's Answer:

I invented the chicken. I invented the road.

Therefore, the chicken crossing the road represented the application of these two different functions of government in a new, reinvented way designed to bring greater services to the American people.

### ■ George W. Bush's Answer:

We don't really care why the chicken crossed the road. We just want to know if the chicken is on our side of the road or not. The chicken is either with us or it is against us. There is no middle ground here.

### ■ Ralph Nader's Answer:

The chicken's habitat on the original side of the road had been polluted by unchecked industrialist greed. The chicken did not reach the unspoiled habitat on other side of the road because it was crushed by the wheels of a gas-guzzling SUV.

### ■ Pat Buchanan's Answer:

To steal a job from a decent, hardworking American.

### ■ Rush Limbaugh's Answer:

I don't know why the chicken crossed the road, but I'll bet it was getting a government grant to cross the road, and I'll bet someone out there is already forming a tax-funded support group to help chickens with crossing-the-road syndrome. Can you believe this?

### ■ Jerry Falwell's Answer:

Because the chicken was gay! Isn't it obvious? Can't you people see the plain truth in front of your face? The chicken was going to the "other side." That's what they call it — the other side. Yes, my friends, that chicken is gay. And, if you eat that chicken, you will become gay too. I say we boycott all chickens until we sort out this abomination that the liberal media whitewashes with seemingly harmless phrases like "the other side."

### ■ Karl Marx's Answer:

It was a historical inevitability.

### ■ Bill Clinton's Answer:

I did not cross the road with THAT chicken. What do you mean by chicken? Could you define chicken, please?

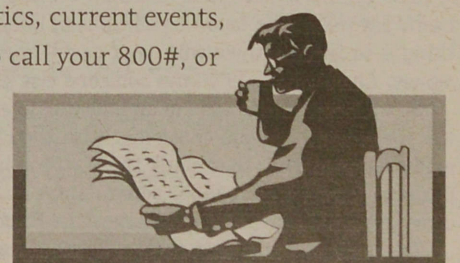
### ■ L.A.P.D.'s Answer:

Give us 10 minutes with the chicken and we'll find out.

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## THE CHAIR

# Who decides what is said in the LP's name?

One of the functions of the LP Chair is that of spokesperson. I knew I'd take heat from members when press releases and op-eds were published in my name. I'm not surprised that there have been strong responses to these pieces.

What surprises me is the naïveté of some of the objections. I'm going to use this column to try to explain how I think things work.

I received the following message (which is quite representative) regarding an op-ed published on April 17 titled "What have we really won in Iraq?"

"I am getting sick of Neale's anti-Bush, anti-war, pro-left wing, pro-Democrat articles. I know a lot of Libertarians that are getting fed up with these biased, negative articles. Instead of being so negative on the liberation of Iraq, he might want to tackle the Patriot Act or lowering of taxes (oops, I forgot Neale is against tax cuts). He is becoming an embarrassment to the LP and I am beginning to feel my views are not being represented by the current LP administration."

My job is not to state personal opinions, but to represent the LP Platform as accurately as possible. If I did otherwise, the outrage from the membership for expressing positions contradicting our Platform would be deafening.

Our Platform states: "The violation of rights and liberty by other governments can never justify foreign intervention by the United States government." This document drives our responses to current affairs. To express a pro-war stance because we're liberating the oppressed would be in conflict with the Platform.

My name is placed on many releases and op-eds, but their crafting is a team effort. As a great believer in delegation, I let our skilled staff members put very good words in my mouth. Why? Because they write better than I do, and the pieces are more likely to be published when the Chair is the author. The true credit for these great releases lies primarily with our Communications Director, George Getz, who is absolutely committed to accurately representing our Platform.

It's true, many of our statements are anti-Bush. That's because he's a Republican. Our job is political differentiation. We point out differences, not similarities. To spend time talking about how "good" Bush is would be viewed as pandering. After all, if someone thinks Bush is pretty good, why join the LP? Will any good he ever does make up for the evil of the Patriot Acts? I don't think so.

Anti-war? Pro-left wing? Pro-Democrat? Yes, our Platform is pretty anti-war, especially when not engaged for self-defense. Yes, we're pretty left-wing when it comes to social justice, civil liberties, free speech, etc. And we're certainly in favor of everything Democrats are in favor of, when they agree with us. We're also pro-Republican on other issues, where they agree with us. In total, that overlap of stances is still very small.

There have been several recent releases on the Patriot Act. We've been vocal against both I and II. Our activism against these vile assaults on our liberties continues at every level within the LP.

I've never been opposed to tax cuts. But how can any person be in favor of this war, and in supporting Bush, and still be in favor of tax cuts? This excursion in world-liberation is being funded by an additional budget authorization of \$80 billion. That works out to \$285 per American, not counting the cost of servicing this additional debt. Mr. Bush didn't carve that money out of current revenues — he's taxing it out of us. My family will be paying more than \$2,000 for this war.

Libertarians believe that taxation, even for "noble" purposes, is theft. For those who favor expeditions of liberation, the principled thing is to support them with your own money — not someone else's money. And taxation is *always* someone else's money.

So when someone says I'm an embarrassment to the LP, as long as the positions I state are consistent with the Platform, what they're really saying is that they think the Platform is an embarrassment (a position with which I cannot agree). There's a simple fix for that: come to Atlanta in 2004, and change the Platform.

To think that the Chair of this Party is free to choose the philosophical direction of the Party is delusional. I may be the captain of this ship for a two-year period, but I am most definitely *not* the navigator — the delegates to our National Conventions are.



**By Geoffrey Neale**

LP NATIONAL CHAIR

# The tenacious, misunderstood problem of U.S. homelessness

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

By Bill Winter

LP NEWS EDITOR

For critics of America, they are a damning indictment of "cold-hearted" capitalism.

For liberals, they are an argument for an expanded government safety net.

For most Americans, they are an object of pity and fear, or the cause of a sense of "there-but-for-the-grace-of-God-go-I" gratitude.

They are the homeless — the ragged army of men and women who camp out on heating grates, push overloaded shopping carts, and beg for spare change in America's cities and towns.

For the past two decades, they have been a rallying point for politicians and activists who held them up as a symbol of the failure of the free market and voluntary charity.

Dog-eat-dog capitalism, greedy landlords, and a public suffering from "compassion fatigue" causes homelessness, we are told — and only government can solve it.

Oh really? According to Philip Mangano of the federal Homelessness Council, the federal government spent \$14 billion over 20 years and helped fund 40,000 separate initiatives to help the homeless. In 2002, there were 14 major federal programs — costing \$2.2 billion — dedicated to helping homeless persons.

And cities around the USA have launched dozens of ambitious plans to help the homeless, ranging from the merely expensive to the absurd. In 1999, for example, San Francisco Mayor Willie Brown advocated giving homeless beggars battery-powered machines to allow them to accept donations via Visa, MasterCard, and American Express.

## Getting worse

Despite all this, homelessness seems to be getting worse, according to a December 2002 report from the U.S. Conference of Mayors. In fact, between 2001 and 2002 alone, there was a 19% increase in requests for emergency shelter.

But before we can cure homelessness, we first need to be able to answer the question: What causes homelessness?

According to many experts, the modern problem of homelessness

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

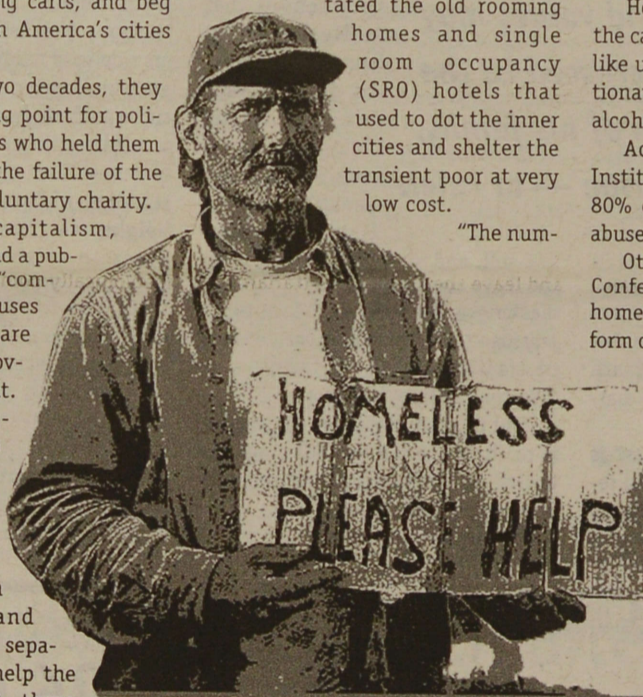
seems to owe its origin to two unconnected — yet hugely influential — actions by the government.

■ In the 1960s, a "deinstitutionalization" movement swept through the mental health field, and hundreds of thousands of mentally ill patients were released from forced confinement.

As a result, "patient totals at state mental hospitals plummeted from 550,000 to 110,000, and tens of thousands ended up on the streets," reported Marvin Olasky in *The Tragedy of American Compassion* (1992).

■ At about the same time, federal urban renewal programs devastated the old rooming homes and single room occupancy (SRO) hotels that used to dot the inner cities and shelter the transient poor at very low cost.

"The num-



ber of people living in such units dropped from 640,000 in 1960 to 137,000 in 1990," reported John M. Watkins in *Explorations* (March-April 1998).

Equally important, there was a change in the language used to describe people without homes — along with a major shift in public opinion.

According to Andrew Peyton Thomas (*The Weekly Standard*, April 8, 1996), the concept of "homelessness" is relatively new. Traditionally, he wrote, Americans "referred to such people as 'hobos' and 'tramps.'"

However, in the early 1980s, social service activists began a campaign to publicize the homeless as "people just like us" who were suffering from a lethal mix of Reaganomics, high rents, and bad luck.

"Their plight was said to be a social injustice stemming from unkind federal budget cuts and, more broadly, the energized capitalism of the eighties," wrote Thomas. The homeless were described as "ordinary people who had suffered temporary financial misfortune."

## Drugs, alcohol, insanity

However, that doesn't seem to be the case. Instead of being "people just like us," the homeless are disproportionately people suffering from drugs, alcohol, and insanity.

According to the Independent Institute's Andy Bane, fully "60% to 80% of the homeless are substance abusers or mentally ill."

Other studies concur. The U.S. Conference of Mayors says 22% of homeless adults suffer from some form of severe mental illness, and 34%

are addicted to drugs or alcohol. And a 1982 Cuomo Commission found that 80% of New York's homeless tested positive for illegal drugs.

(Interestingly, those numbers seem fairly stable through history. In *The Tragedy of American Compassion*, Marvin Olasky reported that an 1827 study found that "three-fourths to nine-tenths of the paupers" in six major American cities "may attribute their degradation to the vice of intemperance.")

What this means, wrote Bane, is that most "people are not homeless because they lack housing options. They are homeless because they suffer from mental illnesses that impede their ability to seek help or to help themselves. [Or] because their addictions cause them to spend all their resources supporting their habits."

Meanwhile, only 20-40% are homeless due to economic deprivation, and, of those, perhaps 10% and 20% are poor families with children.

So, any program to help the homeless needs to be two programs: One that helps the working poor who have been priced out of the housing market (the "temporary" homeless), and one that helps the mentally ill and substance abusers for whom homelessness is a symptom of a more severe problem (the "hardcore" homeless).

Here are some proposals that See **HOMELESS** Page 22

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## THE MAILBOX



### ■ Incremental solutions

Bravo, Bill Winter! You hit the nail on the head with your May Libertarian Solutions column ["The power of incremental proposals that are quite surprisingly radical"].

I have been a practicing Libertarian for most of my adult life, but only in the past two years have I been a member of the party. What has always been a challenge to our local party is finding a balance between what we call the "Big L" Libertarian position and the "Little L" libertarian reality.

Our members believe strongly in many, but not all, of our party's positions, but because of the reality of where we live, we cannot always lead with those positions and still be seen as a viable alternative to even one-party rule.

At a recent county fair, we polled people coming past our booth for their sentiments on many issues, and we are now using that data to run our local informational campaigns. We are also staying away from the more Big "L" Libertarian issues that polled low or unfavorably in our area. We do this because the first goal to making any changes in our local government is to get elected, otherwise we are doomed to be the country's largest third-party debating society.

Intellectual arguments on principle are fine, as far as they go. They should set the direction for where we should be in 20 or 30 years into a truly Libertarian society. But this country didn't become the way it has overnight, and we are never going to become a viable alternative until we base our daily activities on the common sense solutions you proposed,

and leave the "Big L" Libertarian positions as the foundation for our incremental moves.

Libertarians are well known for expressing our opinions on something; we need to become better listeners to the people we want to elect us.

— DAVID W. RICHARD  
Alpharetta, Georgia

**"CHANGE IN A  
democracy is by  
necessity gradual.**

**To pursue progress in  
incremental steps  
does not make us any  
less committed."**

### ■ No big bang

Thanks for penning your excellent article "The power of incremental proposals."

I totally agree. Change in a democracy is by necessity gradual. The general public is not ready for the big bang. Your proposals are the right combination of possible and substantive. If they are adopted people will say, "Hey the sky didn't fall. In fact I am better off than I was before." They will then be more open to taking the next step on the road to freedom.

To pursue progress in incremental steps does not make us any less

ideologically committed; it is just a realistic approach to our goals.

Thank you for giving eloquent voice to this point of view.

— STU YOUNG  
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### ■ Where's Sowell?

I am sorry to see that Thomas Sowell's name wasn't mentioned as a possible presidential candidate in the May issue of the LP News [The Pulse]. I was heartened to see Clint Eastwood's name, though.

— CLINT BOYCE  
Placerville, California

### ■ Presidential fears

In the May 2003 section of The Pulse, my fears about prospective replies to the May question came to be.

The question asked LP members to identify their favorite 2004 candidate for the presidential nomination. The majority of those who replied believe that press coverage of our candidate or celebrity status is more important than whether our candidate is willing to seek the nomination, has prior experience in government, brings credibility at the local level, and has the ability to work as a team with our state and local Libertarian parties.

Without naming names, many of the prospective candidates listed in the poll have shown no interest in the LP or in seeking the nomination. Others have shown an inability to work cohesively with local or state Libertarian parties.

My advice to those attending the 2004 nominating convention in Atlanta is to use the same discretion in

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## THE PULSE

## Quizzing Libertarians

Get two Libertarians together, the old quip goes, and before long, they'll be having a vigorous agreement.

That's *agreement* — as in, most Libertarians agree with each other, most of the time, on most issues. (And that's *vigorous* — as in, "Yes, you're correct in what you say, but let me quote Ayn Rand or Ludwig von Mises, who said it better.")

Oh sure, Libertarians can disagree on how small government should get, and which political tactics are best, and certain thorny issues (abortion comes to mind), but, on the whole, they tend to see pretty much eye-to-eye on a whole range of issues.

That could be why this month's unscientific Pulse question didn't generate many responses. We asked: "What question should a future Pulse ask LP News readers? And why?"

Even though we touted this as your "one chance to get a free public opinion survey of your fellow Libertarians," only about a dozen LP News readers took us up on the offer (less than half the response rate a typical Pulse column generates). Apparently, most Libertarians already know what other Libertarians think. (Or don't care!)

The suggestions we did get ranged widely: Motivation to join the LP. Deadbeat dads. A national sales tax. Proposed Constitutional amendments. The United Nations. A supreme being... No common theme seemed to emerge from the proposed questions.

In coming months, we'll ask a few of the best questions. (We'll select ones we think will generate the most lively, interesting, varied responses.) In the meantime, here are the questions that some Libertarians want to ask other Libertarians:

■ Should the government assist single moms by requiring employers to garnish wages from deadbeat dads when there is court-ordered child support?

— JERRY DIXON, Santee, California

■ What prompted you to become a Libertarian? What motivated you to join the Libertarian Party? What motivates you to be active within the party? Or what motivates you to be inactive? I know, it is more than one question — however, as a member who has seen many people become inactive, or even let their memberships expire, I would like to hear what some of our members have to say about what has motivated them to be active, inactive, etc.

— JOSH WEITZMAN, Cincinnati, Ohio

■ When taking the Nolan chart it shows that the very top is the home of the true libertarian. While those at the tip are very few — and we need to move outward from that tip to get support from less enlightened individuals — it seems that most of the focus is toward those on the right side as opposed to the left. Why aren't we getting more liberals in the party who are closer to the top? Are we just a subset of disgruntled Republicans in the way that the Green Party is the Democrat alternative?

— CHAD ELWARTOWSKI, Augusta, Georgia

■ How many Libertarian Party members encrypt their e-mail?

— LYNDLE ROTTMANN, Houston, Texas

■ Should the Libertarian Party rate other parties' candidates for Congress based on basic Libertarian principles when there is no Libertarian candidate, and maybe even add them to the Libertarian slate? I believe that this would tend to cause more voters to vote the Libertarian ticket when it contains their own choices and results in getting their vote for other offices for which they have no particular preferences. It would also result in boosting the total Libertarian vote counted for ballot access.

— JOHN KAIL CRANE, Pharr, Texas

■ What other organizations, whether natural or non-traditional allies, should the LP cultivate relationships and partnerships with? Second, in light of many efforts around the country to lower the voting age, and in light of much evidence showing the upcoming Millennial Generation to be more libertarian than its elders, would lowering the voting age to 16 be a good idea?

— ALEX KOROKNAY-PALICZ, Rockville, Maryland

■ Describe the most supreme being there is and the relationship of this supreme being to libertarianism.

— ANDREW LOHR, Chattanooga, Tennessee

■ What Constitutional Amendment would: 1) Best promote liberty and; 2) Have a good chance of passing? My own suggestion is to have Supreme Court members picked by the state legislatures (or the governors). This meets both criteria as the members they choose are

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## THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

likely to favor state's rights and limit the power of the federal government, which would benefit the people who would propose and ratify the amendment.

— RICHARD D. FUELE, Grand Island, New York

■ Should the Libertarian Party platform include a rights-based case for its unconditional support for choice on abortion? In other words, does the fetus have rights that the LP must take into account? And what reason(s) should the party give for its conclusion?

— DORIS GORDON, Wheaton, Maryland

■ There are some organizations that are trying to get the national income tax repealed and replaced with a national sales tax. Even though we would prefer repealing the income tax and replacing it with nothing, getting rid of the IRS would be a step in the right direction. Should LP members support those organizations?

— JERRY DIXON, Santee, California

■ In 1776, the founders signed a document stating that "all men are created equal." We know the facts at the time belied the broad language — slavery was legal, women couldn't vote, etc. — but these exclusions have since faded into history. In fact, equal protection is now expanded beyond "men" and includes corporations, due to the Supreme Court's 1886 decision, *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific Railroad Company*. What do libertarians think about this expansion? Are corporations merely the means by which humans choose to act and in that process lose none of their inherent rights? Or are corporations merely the creations of the state and entirely subject to the will of their creator? Or must we find some philosophically muddy middle ground because corporations are so central to modern life?

— RICH MORONEY, Davenport, Iowa

## Aug. Question: Dealing with SARS?

The following question was posted at the website, e-thepeople.org — and it's a good question: "How would a Libertarian leader respond to a major SARS [Sudden Acute Respiratory Syndrome] outbreak? Would a Libertarian leader support forced quarantines? If not, what would Libertarians propose to do (if anything) to control the rapid spread of a deadly contagious disease?" The questioner went on to note: "It seems to me that public health crises like SARS are precisely the kind of problems that require public infrastructure (e.g., 'big government') to deal with appropriately." Keep in mind: SARS is spreading across the world, is highly contagious (it can be spread from one person to dozens), sends 15% of its victims into the intensive care unit, and has a 5% fatality rate. According to *USA Today*, if it spreads like the 1918 Spanish flu outbreak, SARS could kill 60 million people around the world, and 36,000 in the USA. So: Is the growing SARS epidemic a crisis that requires some kind of government action?

■ QUESTION: What, if anything, would a Libertarian government do to handle a potentially lethal SARS epidemic? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: July 8, 2003

## July Question: 50 States?

Fifty-state ballot status: Do we really need it? At its December 2002 meeting, the Libertarian National Committee budgeted \$213,000 for ballot access — but made it conditional on money being raised to fund it. Previously, 50-state ballot status for presidential elections had been a core goal. Now, it's conditional. The LP did achieve 50-state status in 1992, 1996, and 2000 — but at a huge cost. In 1999, for example, the party spent \$86,000 on ballot access, and another \$507,000 in 2000. There's no doubt that 50-state status earned some media attention — but it didn't generate breakthrough coverage on television, nor get us into the presidential debates. Not being on the ballot in every state would mean that some LP members wouldn't be able to vote for our candidate. But being on every ballot certainly didn't result in record numbers of votes in 1992, 1996, or 2000. So the question is: *How important is being on every state ballot?*

■ QUESTION: Should the Libertarian Party make 50-state ballot status for our presidential candidate a priority in 2004? Why or why not? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: June 8, 2003

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

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

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

■ Mail: Bill Winter, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

## THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

voting for the LP presidential nominee as you would use in evaluating the worth of candidates in statewide elections. Be skeptical. Ask questions. Think critically. Not everything is as it may seem.

— AARON BITERMAN  
Washington, DC

### ■ War hawks redux

I just received and finished reading the May 2003 issue of the *LP News*. Good job, as always.

I couldn't help noticing the quantity of material dedicated to the issue of the recent U.S. conquest of Iraq; apparently, there are several members of the party (including radio talk show host Neal Boortz) who actually support the ongoing U.S. military adventurism throughout the world.

I was around when the LP was founded and when libertarians split from the Bill Buckleyite faction of Young Americans for Freedom (YAF) in the late '60s. Basically, to the best of my now-fading recollection, one of the major (if not the major) differences between the libertarians and the Buckleyites was the use/abuse of American military throughout the world, including the Vietnam conflict.

The party was subsequently formed out of the ashes of the YAF organization to some degree, but also because of the GOP and Nixon's newfound faith in John Maynard Keynes.

I remember remarking to Murray Rothbard at the time that one of the biggest challenges that the party would face would be to keep the "domino-effect" war advocates away from the party. I opined at the time that many fiscal conservative/militarists would have no place to go in the GOP and would try to join and "reform" the LP. He was skeptical at the time, suggesting that the drug issue would keep conservatives away.

From what I have heard and seen, seems I was right. I recognize the same arguments being offered by our current crop of conservative war hawks to justify U.S. military involvement in Iraq in 2003 as were offered by the YAF Buckleyites in 1969.

And they are just as baseless, unconvincing, and irrational now as they were then. Some small and insignificant factual distinctions exist, but the argument is basically the same. The only difference is that the 1969 pro-interventionist, pro-war conservative crowd was still in the GOP...now they're in the LP as well.

Very bad, even if somewhat predictable. And they can't seem to stop equating anti-war sentiment with the Left...just like the Buckleyites of old.

— WILLIAM E. SCHETLICK  
Flemington, New Jersey

### ■ Favors Iraq war

I favor the Iraq war. I think what antiwar libertarians are missing is how 9/11 changed the very concept of war.

Make no mistake, we are at war. But not in the usual sense, not with

any particular state. This war is between Western civilization and radical Islamic fundamentalist terrorists.

This war is so different it took us eight years, from the time of the first WTC attack in 1993 to September 11, 2001, to fully become aware that we were under attack, despite the fact that 9/11 was the fifth attack against us.

I think that this will be a very long war — 50, maybe even 100 years. We better get used to it. So can we all dispense with the "pre-emptive war, non-interventionist, and non-initiation of force" arguments in regard to this very different conflict?

We have suffered a grievous attack and we are still under attack, make no mistake about that. We have the right to take whatever actions we deem necessary to protect ourselves.

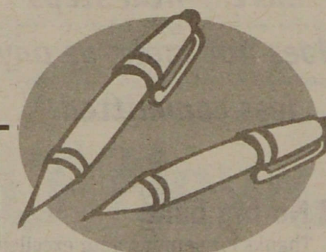
Those who believe we can escape

**"THOSE WHO  
believe we can escape  
the wrath of radical  
Islamists by cowering  
within our borders  
and flashing peace  
signs are naive."**

the wrath of the radical Islamists by cowering within our borders and flashing peace signs are naive beyond belief.

I think some brief comments about 9/11 are in order. We must not forget that Bin Laden targeted and hoped to kill 25,000 to 30,000. We were lucky to get off with 3,000.

Secondly, don't forget the blow he dealt to our economy. The cost probably exceeds a trillion dollars. It behooves us to take all measures possible to prevent another attack. Next time, it might be 50,000 dead and \$10 trillion.



## Make Your Voice Heard!

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Framingham, MA 01702

The question now becomes, "How do we fight this war?"

I think Bush's approach is right in this case. That is, any state which harbors and supports terrorists is our enemy just as much as the terrorists themselves. This makes any such state a fair and just target of American military action.

There are only a limited number of states which can be said to fit this mold. Whether Iraq is one of them can be argued. Whether the war has actually made us safer can be argued.

But the argument that holds no water is that we cannot attack Iraq because, as a state, they have not attacked us. Or, as a state, it poses no "eminent" threat to us.

Those same arguments can be used against our action in Afghanistan, and indeed against any action we might take, since they must all entail action against some state.

Those arguments amount to the following: OK we'll just hunker down and wait for the next attack. Then, if we can identify who did it and if we can locate them and if we can attack with no chance of "innocents" being hit, then and only then will we respond.

We can comfort the dead and maimed with our great proclamations of how wonderful we all are for not taking "pre-emptive" action. The absurdity of it all is just too much to bear.

— WALTER BALES  
Anaheim, California

### ■ Be tolerant

Congratulations to Bill Winter for a clear and unemotionally contaminated explication of the *LP News'* position on the war [From the Editor, May 2003].

While I strongly agree with most libertarians that the war is ill-advised, we need to be tolerant of one another's opinions on this matter since it is clear that good, freedom-loving people who are trying to think properly about the issue are falling on both sides of the question. Let's try to discuss this issue without calling each other blind idiots or unpatriotic leftists or whatever.

I am reminded of the problem faced by the fledgling American libertarian movement at the start of the Civil War: about half the libertarians at "Modern Times," an experimental libertarian community on Long Island, New York, thought that they should join the Union forces to fight for the freedom of the slaves; the other half felt that the Civil War would enlarge government power, threaten the autonomy of southern states, and would end up freeing the slaves from private masters to become slaves of the state.

This controversy caused the community to disintegrate. Let's not see the same thing happen to us.

— LEE NASON  
New Bedford, Massachusetts

### ■ Their follow-up?

After receiving the May 2003 issue of *LP News*, I was pleased to read that wealthy businessman Peter Thiel of Paypal, Inc. had publicly identified himself as a libertarian.

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## THE MAILBOX

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My question is: What is the LP doing to follow-up on this revelation?

I don't think I'm out of line to suggest that the national LP Chairman, as the party's highest-ranking officer, should send a personalized letter or make a personal phone call to Mr. Theil, asking him to become active in the party and/or make a generous donation.

In general, whenever a celebrity or multimillionaire publicly says he or she is a libertarian, the Libertarian Party should follow up on it. If this approach yields even one or two big donations per year from such people, it will have been well worth the minimal amount of time and effort necessary to make it happen.

— JONATHAN TRAGER

Washington, DC

### ■ No Galt's Gulch

In the April edition of *LP News*, LP Chair Geoff Neale made an astonishing criticism of the Free State Project. He stated that while many libertarians are attracted to the Free State Project, he would rather not "preach to the choir" and instead intends to take the libertarian message to the general public. Thus, he implies that the Free State Project is all about holing up and preaching to the choir.

Nothing could be further from the truth. The Free State Project is simply the most effective strategy for giving libertarian solutions prominence and winning over our fellow Americans.

To date, libertarian strategies have not been working. Most Americans still regard libertarians as the lunatic fringe.

The Free State Project will change all that. By concentrating 20,000 libertarian activists in a single state, we will have constant media attention in that state. We will work on the local and state levels to elect freedom-friendly politicians, and by concentrating our resources, we'll have a much better shot at actually winning these races than ever before. Our state will then serve as a model of liberty and prosperity to other states and even other countries.

The Free State Project isn't some plan to huddle together in a utopian Galt's Gulch. Rather, the FSP consists of people from all walks of life who will be moving into existing communities in an existing state and then proving themselves to be responsible citizens with good ideas.

We're not trying to make a world full of libertarians (at least, not right away), but we are trying to make a more libertarian world.

— JASON P. SORENS

President, Free State Project  
Asheville, North Carolina

### ■ Not zealots

In his "The Chair" column, Geoffrey Neale compares libertarians and free staters to religious zealots. This is incredible, especially coming from the LP Chair.

Libertarians and free staters are

more willing to reason than activists in other parties and certainly not dogmatic authoritarians, like religious zealots. If Mr. Neale had revealed this view before he was elected at the National Convention, I and others would have never voted for him.

The basic point of the editorial was that the obnoxious personality (like religious zealots) of libertarians was responsible for our lack of electoral success. This is not the case.

Some activists may not always be as welcoming as they could, but this is not the fundamental reason why we have not had electoral success. The fundamental reasons are on the one hand the enormity of the task, and on the other, poor electoral strategies. If you have few resources compared to your electoral opponents, and you squander your resources throughout an enormous nation, don't be surprised when you don't succeed.

This strategic inefficiency is the problem that is solved by the Free State Project, and it is why so many people are enthusiastic about it.

Our Chair does not know whether he would like "to live in a world full of libertarians." WOW! I don't recall him having mentioned this view when he was campaigning for LP Chair. For Mr. Neale's sake, let me explain why it would be great "to live in a world full of libertarians."

People that respect other people's rights are more likely to be independent, responsible, fair, friendly, and fun loving. The reason is simple; grasping the idea that it is in your own self-interest to respect other people's rights requires a certain level of intellectual development and sophistication.

Consequently, you are more likely to be with good people if you are "in a world surrounded by libertarians." Furthermore, you will have more economic, intellectual and romantic opportunities in such a society because people that are rational, productive, independent, friendly, benevolent, and joyful have more to offer than their counterparts.

— JAN HELFELD

Falls Church, Virginia

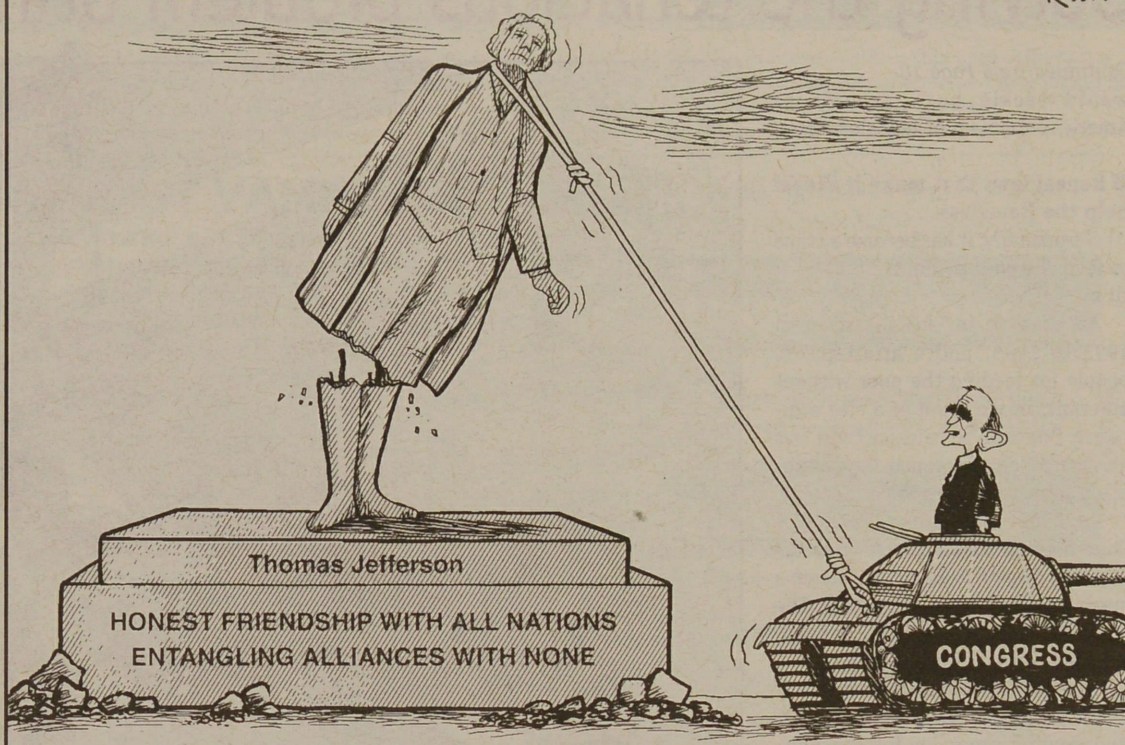
### ■ Sad state of affairs

In the April 2003 *LP News*, Richard Edison suggests that "we have no choice" but to exterminate hundreds of millions of people worldwide, because they might pose a threat to America based solely on their religion [The MailBox].

It is a sad state of affairs indeed when a Libertarian (albeit one who admits to simultaneous membership in the Republican Party, which is

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welcome to have him back) stridently advocates that we as Libertarians should adopt the repulsive genocidal policies of Adolf Hitler and "kill these people" to "save humanity."

I hope that we, as Libertarians and as moral and ethical human beings, can at least agree it is wrong to murder people en masse solely because of their religion, whatever we might believe regarding the current wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. If we cannot, what does the Libertarian Party really stand for?

— BRIAN SCHAR

Belmont, California

### ■ Counterbalance?

I am writing in response to a letter in The Mailbox section of the April 2003 *LP News*. The letter in question is from Richard B. Edison under the headline, "Kill These People."

I know that Mr. Edison has the right of freedom of speech, a right I would fight to defend, but does that mean the LP should give this man a platform to spread his views? Is this the kind of message the LP really wants to associate itself with?

Go back and read it again. He makes reference to, "hundreds of millions of Islamic people," and later says that we should, "kill these people." We should kill hundreds of millions of people based upon their religion/ethnicity? Is genocide an idea the LP really should be promoting? Maybe you should print a letter to counterbalance or correct such an impression?

— JAMES E. BRENTAR

Euclid, Ohio

■ **Editor's note:** We try to print a representative sample of the letters we receive to illustrate the different viewpoints held by LP News readers. As far as printing "corrections" to letters, LP News sometimes prints factual corrections or explanations (like this one). But we don't "correct" opinions — some of which obviously stand in sharp contrast to the Libertarian Party views expressed in news stories, columns, and commentary.

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# Solving the tenacious problem of homelessness in America

Continued from Page 18  
would tackle both aspects of America's problem of homelessness:

## ■ Repeal laws that make it illegal help the homeless.

Surprisingly, it has become a crime to feed the poor in a number of locations.

For example, in San Francisco from 1993 to 1995, police arrested 700 people for feeding the poor without a permit, in violation of a city ordinance. One anti-homeless activist was given a 60-day sentence for distributing soup and bagels to poor people.

In 2000, the United Methodist Church in Portland, Oregon was ordered by city officials to shut down a meals program for the homeless. The program, the church was informed, violated "smart growth" laws.

And in 2003, Santa Monica, California passed an ordinance that limited feeding programs for the hungry on the grounds they they attracted unwanted homeless people.

Politicians have been remarkably unsuccessful at solving the problem of homelessness. They should not make it a crime for Americans to try to succeed there they have failed.

## ■ Eliminate all zoning laws, land-use regulations, growth-control measures, and building codes that drive up the price of housing.

In 1999, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Advisory Commission on Regulatory Barriers to Affordable Housing found that local and state regulations added \$30,000 to \$40,000 to the price of an average home in southern California; boosted by 25% the cost of a house in New Jersey; and raised by \$12,000 the price of a dwelling in the Chicago suburbs.

These regulations don't harm the homeless by keeping them out of expensive houses; they couldn't afford a new home anyway. However, in *The Excluded Americans: Homelessness*



■ In the early 1980s, social service activists began to publicize the homeless as "people just like us" who were suffering from Reaganomics, high rents, and bad luck. However, that doesn't seem to be the case. The homeless are disproportionately people suffering from drugs, alcohol, and insanity. According to the Independent Institute's Andy Bane, "60% to 80% of the homeless are substance abusers or mentally ill."

and *Housing Policies* (1990), William F. Tucker noted that such regulations reduce the number of families that can afford to move into new homes — which mean that fewer vacant apartments "filter down" to lower economic groups.

Thus, government regulations directly reduce the total amount of available housing, and effectively price lower-income families out of the housing market.

Regulations also cause harm in other ways. In *The Death of Common Sense* (1994), Philip K. Howard told how Mother Teresa wanted to renovate an abandoned building in New York to house the homeless. However, the city government informed her building codes required her to install an elevator — and they would not make an exception for her. Unable to

afford the extra \$100,000 cost, Mother Teresa abandoned the project.

## ■ Repeal rent-control laws.

Almost 200 local jurisdictions, encompassing about 10% of the nation's rental housing, impose some system of rent control, according to a 1991 report by Carl F. Horowitz, Ph.D for the Heritage Foundation.

In a study for the Cato Institute, William Tucker found that rents for "available apartments in rent-regulated cities are dramatically higher than they are in cities without rent control. Inhabitants in cities without rent control have a far easier time finding moderately priced rental units than do inhabitants in rent-controlled cities."

It's no coincidence, he argued, that cities with the most restrictive rent control laws — such as San Francisco and New York — seem to have the largest homeless populations. That's why, he wrote, "Higher rates of homelessness are a manifestation of rent control."

## ■ Phase out government programs and turn the care of the homeless over to private charities — which do a better job of curing the root causes of homelessness.

In Washington, DC, the Gospel Rescue Ministries operates from a converted crack house in Chinatown.

"Relying on volunteers and private contributions, the ministry operates a 150-man shelter, soup kitchen, food bank, and drug treatment center," wrote Michael Tanner for the Cato Institute (1997). "The ministry addresses its clients' needs for more than food and shelter: it provides education, job placement assistance and spiritual advice."

The Gospel Rescue Ministries doesn't allow clients to get something for nothing. To stay at its shelter, homeless men must pay \$3.00 a night

of the benefits, the larger the number of people willing to consider homelessness as a viable option," he said. Since the homeless can get free accommodations at government shelters, he said, they are encouraged "not to obtain the skills to make the sacrifices necessary to obtain [their own] housing."

Only privately run charity programs — like the Gospel Rescue Ministries — seem willing to do the hard work to help indigent individuals battle their personal demons and permanently lift themselves from homelessness and helplessness.

## Conclusion

There are no simple solutions to the problem of homelessness. But there is one thing we know: Hoping politicians will spend or legislate the problem out of existence won't work.

In 1984, for example, Washington, DC residents, dismayed by the growing number of homeless, passed a "right-to-shelter" law, which made the city government responsible for providing housing for anyone who needed it.

The results were predictable. Enticed by the prospect of free housing, the number of "homeless" soared. City spending on homeless services ballooned from \$9 million to \$40 million between 1985 and 1990. In 1990, bowing to economic reality, the city council repealed the law.

But where government failed, freedom can succeed.

Three reforms — encouraging "tough-love" community charities, ending laws that place barriers between compassionate people and the indigent, and eliminating government regulations that drive up the cost of housing — hold out the promise of finally putting a roof over the heads of most homeless Americans.

## UPCOMING

### ■ August 15-17, 2003

**Louisiana state convention**, Baton Rouge. Exact location and speakers TBA. For information, call Mike Wolf: (225) 923-0499.

### ■ August 21-24, 2003

**"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference**, West Cornwall, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

### ■ October 16-19, 2003

**"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference**, Dawsonville, Georgia. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

### ■ November 6-9, 2003

**"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference**, North Bend, Washington. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

### ■ November 6-9, 2003

**Freedom Fest 2003**, Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Sponsored by Mark Skousen and Holland World Seminars. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: [www.freedomfest2003.com/](http://www.freedomfest2003.com/).

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## UPCOMING

### ■ June 3, 2003

**Patrick Henry Supper Club**, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker is Patricia Lee (National Director of Clinical Programs, Institute for Justice). For information, call L.T. Harris: (804) 266-6572. Or e-mail: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

### ■ June 6-8, 2003

**Missouri LP Convention**, Wentzville Holiday Inn, St. Louis. Speakers include Michael Tanner (Cato Institute), Mark Schreiber, (former LP Marketing Director), Ben Graydon (Parents United for Responsible Education), Jim Lark (past National LP Chairman), and Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik (2004 LP presidential candidates). For information, call: (877) 868-3487. Or e-mail: gtlapek@aol.com. Or visit: www.lpmo.org.

### ■ June 7, 2003

**Oregon LP Business Convention**, Corvallis Ramada Inn, Corvallis. Speakers include Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director). For information, visit: www.lporegon.org.

### ■ June 19-21, 2003

**National Taxpayers Conference '03**, Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the National Taxpayer's Union Foundation. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (703) 683-5700. Or write: NTUF, Attn: Conference, 108 North Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

### ■ June 13-15, 2003

**New Mexico LP Convention**, La Posada de Hotel, Albuquerque. Speakers include Richard Winger (publisher, *Ballot Access News*), Dr. Harold Messenheimer (executive director, Rio Grande Foundation), and Michael Badnarik (candidate, LP presidential nomination). For information, contact Joseph Knight at: nm\_libertarian@yahoo.com.

### ■ June 28-29, 2003

**Texas LP State Conference**, Menger Hotel, San Antonio. Speakers include Gary Johnson (former New Mexico governor), Rachel Mills (creator, Ladies of Liberty calendar), Will Harrell (executive director,



Texas ACLU), and Jason Sorens (founder, Free State Project). For information, e-mail Kevin Hagen at: HagenLP@aol.com.

### ■ June 28-July 5, 2003

**Objectivist Center's Summer Seminar**, Bentley College, Waltham, Massachusetts. Speakers include David Mayer (author, *The Constitutional Thought of Thomas Jefferson*) and David Kelley (executive director, Objectivist Center). For information, visit: www.objectivistcenter.org.

### ■ July 1, 2003

**Patrick Henry Supper Club**, China Buffet Restaurant, Richmond, Virginia. Speaker is Philip Van Cleave (President, Virginia Citizens Defense League). For information, call L.T. Harris: (804) 266-6572. Or e-mail: leonard@richmondliberty.org.

### ■ July 7-11, 2003

**International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) World Conference**, Vilnius, Lithuania. Speakers include Andrei Illarionov (advisor, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin), Mart Laar (former prime minister, Republic of Estonia), Jacques de Guenin (president, Le Cercle Frédéric Bastiat, France), Sean Gabb (Libertarian Alliance, England), and Barun Mitra (president, Liberty Institute in the Julian Simon Centre, India). For information, visit: www.isil.org.

### ■ August 2-8, 2003

**Cato University Summer Seminar**, Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.cato-university.org. Or call: (202) 789-5229.

### ■ August 3-9, 2003

**Mises University**, Mises Institute, Auburn, Alabama. Courses, seminars, and reading groups on the Austrian School of economics. Speakers include: Walter Block (author, *Defending the Undefendable*), David Gordon (Mises Review), Jörg Guido Hülsmann (Mises Institute), and Richard Vedder (Ohio University). For information, e-mail: pat@mises.org.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 22



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## FIRST WORD

"Great movements start small. Still small compared with Democrats and Republicans, the national Libertarian [Party is] America's third largest political organization. [The] party sees the federal government as our worst environmental polluter. Libertarians argue that Social Security must offer investment choices. Libertarian Party foreign policy dismantles barriers to trade... They vow to lift all willing Americans out of poverty and they would start by abolishing anti-entrepreneurial regulations."

— PATRICK KILLOUGH, *Canyon Lake Times-Guardian* (Texas), February 26, 2003

"The Libertarian Party [is] the third largest political party. Their platform advocates free markets, low taxes, social tolerance, personal freedom, and personal responsibility."

— GILDA TORRES, *www.VisionNews.ws*, March 28, 2003

"Humorist Dave Barry says he is one. So does actor Kurt Russell. And in the late 1990s, broadcast journalist Hugh Downs said that, in a nation with little difference anymore between Democrats and Republicans, 'they' have all of the good ideas. 'They' are members of the Libertarian Party, the largest, oft-ignored and frequently misunderstood third party of political discourse."

— REBECCA BELLING, *South Bend Tribune* (Indiana), March 16, 2003