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Penn. judge upholds ballot access rules

On April 5, U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III said Pennsylvania's ballot access law that requires minor parties to collect 67,070 signatures this year is constitutional.

The number is 2 percent of the highest vote-getter's total in the latest statewide election.

A coalition of minor parties and some of their candidates had filed a lawsuit against the law, asking that the signature requirement be lowered. The Green and Constitution parties and their gubernatorial candidates were plaintiffs, as was Libertarian Ken Krawchuk — who recently turned down the LP's nomination for U.S. Senate because ballot restrictions are so high.

In his opinion, Jones wrote that the minor parties face a "somewhat daunting task" if they are to get on the ballot, adding that he is sympathetic to the parties and their candidates.

He also urged the state's General Assembly to reconsider the law.

A judge is not "a super-legislator," Jones said. "We decline to supplant our wisdom in place of that of the Commonwealth's elected officials."

The state's claimed concern is that unless political parties and candidates are given some standard to meet, the ballot would become cluttered, and Jones said he agreed that such "clutter" should be avoided.

"The evidence in front of him told him that there are only five qualified parties" in the state, Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News* noted, pointing to a 1968 Supreme Court opinion that having as many as eight parties on the ballot neither harms the voter nor results in ballot clutter.

Jones did not mention that case in his opinion, and apparently didn't consider it.

After hearing Jones's decision, Robert Small, founder of the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition, told the Associated Press that his group will continue to try to improve ballot access by seeking changes to the state's laws.

Convention speaker lineup expanded

If you have not already signed up to attend the 2006 national LP convention, now is the time to do so.

Additional speakers have recently been added to the lineup for the event, which is to be held July 1-2 in Portland, Ore.

Among the speakers newly added to the roster are Christopher Farrell of Judicial Watch, Judge John Buttrick of Arizona, and an eighth-grade honors student from Yorba Linda, Calif.

Farrell is the director of investigations and research at Judicial Watch, a Washington, D.C.-based organization dedicated to fighting government corruption.

He will speak at two convention events — the breakfast meeting for members of the LP Torch Club and the closing banquet.

Farrell has many years of experience in military intelligence, including command and staff assignments such as three tours of duty in Germany and one tour at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

He later returned to civilian life as a contractor to the defense and intelligence communities and is now a member of the State Department's Overseas Security Advisory Council.

He has authored numerous articles and lectured on both government corruption and intelligence matters.

John Buttrick is a Superior Court judge in Maricopa County, Ariz. He served on the Libertarian National Committee from 1997 to 2000 as an at-large member, and has also served as chairman of the LP's Platform Committee.

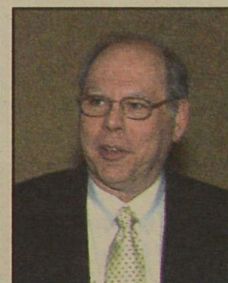
Buttrick's speeches at the recent Libertarian State Leadership Alliance conference in Phoenix were highlights of that conference, as he spoke about the unique challenges presented to a Libertarian in public office.

Probably the youngest speaker at the convention will be Megan Dickson, an eighth-grade Christian school student from Yorba Linda, Calif.

Dickson will present a speech she wrote as a school project. Her topic — libertarianism — was informed by her recent interest in politics, which stemmed from a class in which she studied the U.S.



■ Chris Farrell



■ John Buttrick



■ Megan Dickson



■ Bob Barr

Constitution. As her history class studied the document, Dickson was surprised to discover that the government we currently have bears little resemblance to the one created by our nation's founders.

Speakers previously lined up for the convention include former Congressman Bob Barr and BBC correspondent Andrew Neil.

Barr, who will speak on Saturday morning, represented the 7th District of Georgia from 1995 to 2003. He currently is chairman of the Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances, a group that has been a vocal opponent of the USA PATRIOT Act.

Neil will be taking part in several events throughout the convention, LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory said.

He is the founding chairman of Sky TV, has served as publisher of

The Scotsman, editor of *The Economist* and editor-in-chief of the *Sunday Times* — in addition to his current position with the BBC.

Delegates and others who plan to attend the convention should sign up soon, Cory noted.

"Early-bird" pricing will end on May 1, so registrants can still save money, but early registration also will help convention planners pay for and budget expenses for this biennial event.

"So if you want to take part in the election of LNC members and other convention business, or if you just want to see how a true political party works, take the time to register today," Cory concluded.

For more information about speakers and other convention details, go to www.LPConvention.org.

The 'Lone Wolf' Libertarian: What a single LP member can accomplish

By Dr. James W. Lark III
LNC REPRESENTATIVE REGION 5E

During my travels to promote the Libertarian Party, I frequently meet Libertarians who consider themselves "lone wolves." That is, they live in an area that they believe is devoid of fellow Libertarians.

Unfortunately, in conversing with these "Lone Wolf Libertarians," I often find they underestimate the great value they can offer to the Libertarian Party.

During these conversations, I mention the many things they can do to help. In particular, I emphasize that they should end their status as "Lone Wolves" by finding (or creating) more Libertarians. I note that I have been a Lone Wolf Libertarian before, and suggest their Libertarian activities will be much more effective and enjoyable when they are running with a pack of fellow Libertarians.

If you are a Lone Wolf Libertarian, I suggest you try the following:

■ Determine whether you are indeed a Lone Wolf Libertarian. Contact your state party and national LP headquarters to inquire whether there are other Libertarians (or prospects) in your area.

■ Volunteer to serve as the local contact for your state party. The simple act of being listed as a contact on your state party Web site can have tremendous payoffs.

The Libertarian Party of Botetourt County, one of the best local organizations in Virginia, got its start because Liz Bowles (who with her husband Jeff had just joined the LPVa) accepted my invitation to be listed as a local contact on the LPVa Web page.

Shortly thereafter a person in a neighboring county who was interested in the Libertarian Party contacted her. Within six months of that contact, the number of Libertarians in Botetourt County (a rural



■ Dr. James W. Lark

county) increased from 2 to 15, and Jeff Bowles was elected to local office (as a write-in).

■ Inform local media there is a Libertarian contact in the area. In my experience, many local reporters seek to provide balance to (or spice up) a story by including a different

perspective. Several times I have been contacted out of the blue by reporters who wanted "the Libertarian point of view" for their story. For the most part, my comments have been reported fairly.

■ Monitor local news media for stories of interest, and relay those stories to the state party and LP headquarters.

■ Contact local media to obtain info about local journalists and editors (especially those who have demonstrated agreement with Libertarian positions), and send that info to state and national party communications directors.

This activity can be of great help, since the average turnover in news bureaus makes it difficult to maintain accurate contact lists. Also, the act of contacting local media on a regular basis serves as a reminder that the Libertarians are around.

■ Contact local media to inquire whether they want to receive

See **LONE WOLF** Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

Elected official refuses to take oath of office

Basil E. Dalack was recently elected to the city council of Tequesta, Fla., which is near West Palm Beach. But there's a problem: He refuses to take the oath of office, which he interprets as a public pledge of support for the current war in Iraq.

The oath says, in part, "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution, and Government of the United States and of the State of Florida against all enemies, domestic or foreign, and that I will bear true faith, loyalty and allegiance to the same"

According to the *Palm Beach Post*, Dalack has consistently and vehemently opposed the war.

And he has now filed a lawsuit (awaiting a ruling from a federal judge) arguing that the oath of office implies support of all of the government's actions, including the war.

U.S. District Judge Donald Middlebrooks is reviewing the suit, but has said he doesn't think the oath's promise to support the government will be construed as supporting all policies of the government.

Dalack was elected in an uncontested race. He cannot take office until he's sworn in, he can't be sworn in without taking the oath of office, and he refuses to take the oath in its current form.

Karl Dickey, president of the Palm Beach County LP, reportedly has said he supports Dalack's cause — and has announced the Florida LP will file a legal brief in support of Dalack, the newspaper report said.

Libertarian enters Missouri state auditor's race

St. Louis native Charles Baum, a Libertarian, has entered the race for Missouri state auditor, and he plans if elected to make the office less partisan.

Baum earned his bachelor's degree in business with a major in finance from the University of Missouri and his master's degree in teaching from Webster University. He is a Certified Financial Planner and has more than 25 years of experience in the financial services industry.

He hopes to use his vast financial experience to bring a new approach to the office of state auditor.

"Once elected, I will investigate in more depth the nature by which audits have been ... performed in the past," he said. "I am sure that in this process I will discover areas that have long been 'ignored' due to the overlap between political interests and private interests."

By delving into issues that have obscured by partisan politics, Baum said, he'll make the auditor's office more objective and transparent.

"The major change I look to bring is a non-political approach to a position that has for too long been swayed by policies of the auditor's party," he explained. "I want independence and objectiveness to be associated with this position."

The Democratic incumbent, Claire McCaskill, is leaving office to run for U.S. Senate this year. The other declared candidates Baum will face are Democrat Susan Montee and Republicans John Loudon, Mark Wright, and Jack Jackson.

DeLay announces he'll resign from U.S. House

Rep. Tom DeLay, the embattled former U.S. House majority leader, announced on April 3 that he will resign from Congress, probably in June. DeLay was forced to leave his position of leadership in the House after he was indicted on Dec. 5. He is facing money-laundering charges stemming from his fundraising efforts on behalf of Republican candidates for the Texas House of Representatives.

He had already won the March primary for the 22nd U.S. House seat, which could have put his party in a quandary, according to Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*.

"Although Texas permits candidates to withdraw, it does not let parties replace nominees unless they die, become ill, or become ineligible," Winger wrote on Ballot-Access.org on April 4. "In order to let the Republican Party replace him with a new nominee [for the 2006 general election] DeLay plans to establish domicile in Virginia."

By rendering himself ineligible for the office, DeLay will have allowed the GOP to search for a replacement.

Exactly why DeLay resigned is uncertain. Some have suggested that he is leaving office because of embarrassment over the ongoing corruption charges he is facing, while others believe he resigned so he can avoid a difficult campaign against his erstwhile Democratic opponent, Nick Lampson.

In a poll conducted by the *Houston Chronicle* in January, DeLay was trailing Lampson, 22 percent to 30 percent, with Steve Stockman (who recently left the Republican Party to run as an independent candidate) taking 11 percent.

According to Winger, "there may be a special election to fill the vacancy" the Republicans will have on their side of the ballot. "Texas special elections are conducted as nonpartisan elections, although a new law permits party labels on the ballot."

Ron Paul warns U.S. House against intervention in Iran

In an April 5 speech before the U.S. House of Representatives, Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas), savaged the war in Iraq, drawing attention to the facts that "now almost everyone knows there were no weapons of mass destruction," that "Saddam Hussein posed no threat to the United States," and that "even the administration now acknowledges there was no connection" between Hussein and the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

"Indeed, no one can be absolutely certain why we invaded Iraq," he noted. "The current excuse, also given for staying in Iraq, is to make it a democratic state, friendly to the United States."

But the war in Iraq was not the principal point of Paul's address.

The real issue at hand: "What have we learned from three years in Iraq? With plans now being laid for regime change in Iran, it appears we have learned absolutely nothing," he said.

It now appears that a new enemy is in the Bush administration's sights.

Despite the "horrible results of the past three years, Congress is abuzz with plans to change the Iranian government," he said. "There is little resistance to the rising clamor for 'democratizing' Iran, even though their current president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, is an elected leader."

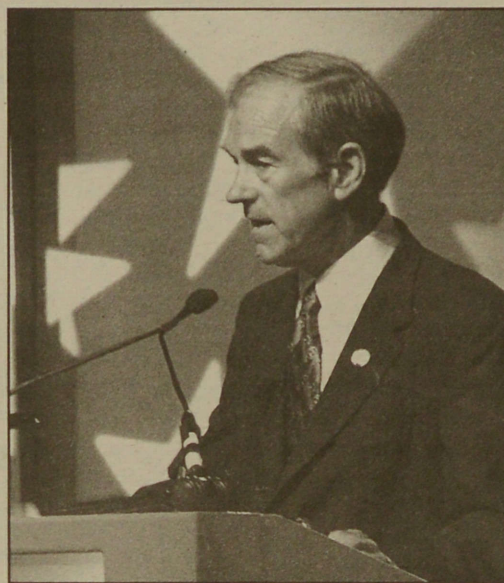
"It's frightening to see how easily Congress, the media, and the people accept many of the same arguments against Iran that were used to justify an invasion of Iraq."

One of the primary lessons to be learned from the invasion of Iraq is the proper use of the U.S. Department of Defense, which is defense. Unfortunately, the Libertarian Party is the only political party that opposes pre-emptive warfare.

It's even written into the party's Platform: "The United States should not inject itself into the internal matters of other nations, unless

they have declared war upon or attacked the United States, or the U.S. is already in a constitutionally declared war with them."

Over the course of his lengthy speech, Dr. Paul — who was the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate in 1988 — pointed out that:



■ Dr. Ron Paul at the 2004 LP Convention

■ America's aggressive foreign policy "has created the current chaos in Iraq — chaos that many describe as a civil war."

■ "Fear of imaginary nuclear weapons or an incident involving Iran will rally the support needed for us to move on Muslim country Number 3. All the past failures and unintended consequences will be forgotten."

■ "There's little reason to expect much resistance from Congress. So far there's less resistance expressed in Congress for taking on Iran than there was prior to going into Iraq."

■ "Iran's history is being ignored, just as we ignored Iraq's history," such as the facts that the CIA participated in the 1953 overthrow of Iran's democratic elected leader, and placed the Shah in power — later providing him with Iran's first nuclear reactor. In 1979 the Ayatollah Khomeini overthrew the Shah.

■ The United States supported Iraq's invasion of Iran in the '80s, "sending a message to Saddam Hus-

sein that invading a neighboring country is not all that bad," Paul said. But when he attacked Kuwait, "our reaction was quite different, and all of a sudden our friendly ally Saddam Hussein became our arch enemy. The American people may forget this flip-flop, but those who suffered from it never forget."

Now, just a few years later, neoconservatives in Congress are "bound and determined to confront the Iranian government and demand changes in its leadership," Paul continued, noting that continued interventionism will further weaken American security, not improve it.

Meanwhile, there is "no evidence of a threat to us by Iran," he added. "Iran does not have a nuclear weapon and there's no evidence that she is working on one."

But even if Iran did have nuclear weapons, "why" would this be different from Pakistan, India, and North Korea having one?" Paul asked. "Why does Iran have less right to a defensive weapon than these other countries?"

In recent speeches, President Bush has claimed that the United States faces "no greater challenge from a single country than from Iran" and that Iran's "desire to have a nuclear weapon is unacceptable."

"The American people should be wary of the Bush administration's mounting rhetoric against Iran for one primary reason," national LP Chair Michael Dixon warned.

"If you treat someone as your enemy, they will be your enemy," he continued. "It's time for the Bush administration to take a grown-up approach to foreign policy and stop playing the schoolyard bully."

Dr. Paul concluded his speech by saying that "intervention just doesn't work. It backfires and ultimately hurts American citizens both at home and abroad. A policy of trade and peace, and a willingness to use diplomacy, is far superior" to our current foreign policy.

"It's time for a change."

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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."

Ore. LP expected to make strides in '06

A political strategist in Oregon has said the Libertarian Party in that state is poised to make great strides this year. And if they don't, it won't be because the political climate is wrong.

Gregg Clapper, a former talk-show host who now manages political campaigns, was invited to address attendees at the Oregon LP's annual business convention held March 11-12 in Bandon.

According to a March 23 report in the *Northwest Meridian*, Clapper was intimately involved in Republican Kevin Mannix's run for governor in 2002, when Mannix was opposed by Libertarian Tom Cox.

Oregonians are generally socially liberal and fiscally conservative, Clapper said — noting that this is

the year for the LP to take advantage of that, as the Republican and Democrat parties are even more confused and disoriented than usual.

According to the *Northwest Meridian* report, Clapper also gave convention attendees a behind-the-scenes look at what happened in the 2002 race, when the Mannix campaign reportedly offered Cox a \$100,000 PAC contribution if he would back out of the gubernatorial race and endorse the Republican.

Cox, who is currently running for office as a Republican, was assured at the time that if he accepted the money and quit the race, the governor's door (with Mannix inside)

would always be open both to Cox and to the Libertarian Party of Oregon. Cox did not leave the race.

Clapper (remember, he worked the Mannix campaign) told convention goers that he thought it was a reasonable offer and that Cox should have taken the Republicans up on it. Those in attendance reportedly said that since either the Democrat or the Republican was going to win, they're glad it was now Gov. Ted Kulongoski instead of Mannix. Not that Kulongoski is good, but Mannix would likely have been even worse.

Also addressing the convention was Arnie Roblan, a Democratic state representative from Coos Bay.

Volunteers needed to help with national LP convention

National LP Secretary Bob Sullentrup is looking for a few good Libertarians to help him at the 2006 National Convention in Portland, Ore., the weekend before July 4.

"We are looking to reward some reliable, capable members who have earned a chance to help at the National Convention," Sullentrup said. "These should be people recommended by their state chairs who have served their local affiliates well."

Candidates should be generally familiar with the LP's bylaws, convention rules and platform, and should be proficient with Microsoft Word and Excel.

In addition, the candidates should have read the Delegation

Chair's manual and other convention materials.

LNC member Dan Karlan, Stephen Gordon and Joseph Magyer have already signed on to the team.

Sullentrup said he is looking for two additional volunteers to help produce, distribute and collect ballots, prepare motions and amendments for display on the overhead, tabulate first and second platform plank ballots, distribute Delegation Chair's manuals and CDs, and collect LNC region formation forms.

"We need to have six or so people so that the volunteers can alternate and spend some of their convention time with their home delegations," he noted.

To apply for a position, contact Sullentrup at rwsully@charter.net.

POLITICS 2006

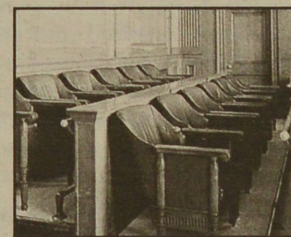
Peacekeepers, jury duty and marijuana

■ According to Jean-Marie Guehenno, the head of peacekeeping operations for the United Nations, the UN investigated 295 complaints of sexual abuse by UN troops in 2005. "Allegations being lodged against UN peacekeeping personnel remain high and unacceptably so," Guehenno told the BBC. Makes you wonder: What amount of abuse would be acceptable? According to the BBC, Guehenno said the UN could have a stronger policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation if they could strictly enforce a complete ban on prostitution in areas occupied by peacekeeping forces.



■ A white supremacist who wants to run for Congress in Missouri has now been turned down by the Republicans, Democrats and Libertarians — and he's filed a federal lawsuit demanding to be included on the primary ballot. Glenn Miller claims he is being kept off the ballot by the Missouri secretary of state "as part of an 'unconstitutional policy to exclude people who espouse pro-White racial viewpoints,'" according to the Associated Press. Miller did get one thing right: He said he doesn't think he can get the 6,000 signatures necessary to run as an independent because people will probably be turned off by his racist views.

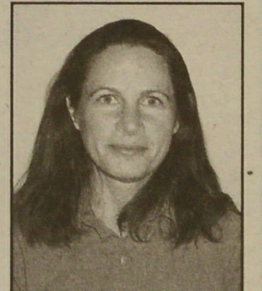
■ Preying on people's natural fear of getting in trouble with the law, an inventive scammer (or a group of scammers) has started calling people at home, pretending to be a "jury coordinator," and telling the targets that a warrant has been issued for their arrest because they didn't show up for jury duty. When the target protests that they weren't summoned to jury duty, the scammer asks for his or her Social Security number and date of birth so they can "verify the information" and clear the target's name by canceling the warrant. People are so nervous about getting in trouble with the courts that they often fall for this scam — which has reportedly been used in 11 states. This may sound like an urban legend, but the debunking Web site Snopes.com has verified the rumors.



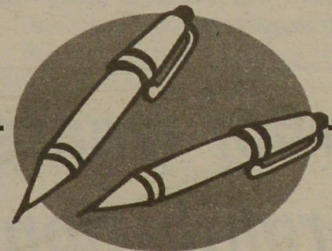
■ If a ballot initiative in Michigan is successful, the state could soon have a unicameral legislature. The formation of both the state House and Senate are based on population, they have the same duties and responsibilities, and they're essentially redundant entities, advocates of a single-house legislature say — calling for eliminating the Senate. Doing so would save about \$80 million in the first year and up to \$1 billion in the first 10 years. According to a Web site (www.fire-the-senate.com) whose ambition needs no explanation, the Michigan legislature has the second highest salaries of any state legislature in the nation, with each legislator taking home \$135,000 in salary and benefits annually.

■ According to the *New Hampshire Union Leader*, state LP chair John Babiarz is suing the town of Grafton over a town meeting election recount. Officials recounted the ballots both by machine and by hand because there was a discrepancy between the number of voters and the number of votes. The recount changed the outcome of an election for a planning board seat. Babiarz reportedly argued that the town should have relied on the machine recounts, not hand counts.

■ Karen Kwiatkowski, a retired USAF lieutenant colonel who spoke at the LP's 2004 national convention, has been mentioned as one possible presidential candidate for 2008. Kwiatkowski has written two books on foreign policy, holds two master's degrees and a Ph.D., and has worked for the National Security Agency and the Pentagon. She has reportedly been a member of the LP since 1994.



■ Travis Nicks, chair of the Colorado LP, was one of the many proponents of marijuana legalization at an early April rally at Colorado State University. The *Greeley Tribune*, which covered the event, noted that Nicks said people don't know the difference between rights and privileges. "You have a right to put anything in your own body," he was quoted as saying. "The government has taken over our own bodies." The LP and other groups are trying to collect 68,000 signatures to get a marijuana legalization question on the next election.



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Zeese selected as Maryland LP's Senate candidate

The Maryland LP's nominee for U.S. Senate this year may be in the unique position of appearing under three separate party lines on the ballot — Libertarian, Green and Populist.

Kevin Zeese has been angling since at least November 2005 for the LP's nomination, and attendees at the Maryland LP convention recently gave him the nod, albeit narrowly.

Zeese is also seeking the nomi-

nation of the Green and Populist parties.

According to Stephen Gordon at HammerOfTruth.com, NOTA ("none of the above") was the only other LP nominee for the race. A nomination requires 60 percent support at the convention, and Zeese managed to get 60.8 percent of the vote.

Zeese is a left-libertarian. He supports gun rights, opposes drug prohibition, and is vehemently opposed to the war in Iraq. The pri-

mary item on which he veers away from the LP line is in his support of nationalized healthcare — but members of the Maryland LP apparently thought his strong libertarian stance on most issues outweigh his position on healthcare.

In a recent press release, Zeese pointed to a Gallup poll that revealed 38 percent of U.S. voters consider themselves independent.

By comparison, 33 percent called themselves Democrat, and 29 per-

cent consider themselves Republican. Those voters who disassociate themselves from the two largest political parties need to come together to challenge them, Zeese said, noting that voters "do not see either [party] as having solutions to their problems" but do see both parties as equally corrupt.

"The vast majority feel unrepresented."

"Despite differences on issues like health care, Libertarians recognize that we agree on many issues," Zeese said. "This includes the need to withdraw from Iraq, end the failed drug war, stop corporate welfare, protect and expand civil liberties as well as reinvigorate our democracy with more choices, more parties and more candidates for voters. We are coming together with disaffected Democrats and Republi-



■ Kevin Zeese

cans, to present voters with a candidate that answers to them — not to corporate donors."

'Lone Wolf' Libertarian activities

Continued from Page 1

state and national LP press releases. Small-circulation newspapers are frequently hungry for interesting, well-written content.

By feeding state and national LP press releases to such media, we may generate many articles and editorials that represent a Libertarian perspective.

■ Read the "Letters to the Editor" section of local newspapers, and contact those who letters suggest an interest in the Libertarian perspective.

Submit Libertarian-oriented op-ed pieces and letters to the editor of local newspapers. Letters to the editor remain a useful way to promote Libertarian ideas, programs, and candidates.

■ Identify speaking opportunities for Libertarians, especially at local civic organizations, high

schools, and colleges.

■ Make a list of local fairs, parades, festivals, etc., and provide that information (including the contact information for event organizers) to your state party. Also, identify locations (especially private businesses) where Libertarians can collect petition signatures.

■ Purchase a listing of the LP's phone number in your local telephone directory. I pay about \$2 a month to have the LP's 800 number in the Charlottesville area telephone directory.

Of course, there are many more activities that a Lone Wolf Libertarian can undertake, such as seeking appointment to local commissions and boards, attending meetings of local governing bodies, sponsoring information tables at local events, and other such activities.

However, the activities listed

above may not require much more effort than making a few phone calls, sending a few e-mails, and checking a few Web sites.

The comedian Woody Allen is frequently credited with the aphorism, "Ninety percent of life is just showing up." By working hard and working smart, and sometimes just by showing up, the Lone Wolf Libertarian can have an impact vastly out of proportion to his efforts. Of course, as a result he probably won't be a "Lone Wolf" for long.

■ **About the author:** Dr. James W. Lark is a professor in the School of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Virginia. He is the Region 5E representative on the Libertarian National Committee and served as national chairman of the Libertarian Party during the 2000-2002 term.

Alaska governor wants marijuana prohibition

In 1975, the Alaska Supreme Court ruled that, given the right to privacy, people in that state should be able to possess marijuana in their own homes, and in 1982, the state legislature set the legal limit at four ounces.

Now Gov. Frank Murkowski, a Republican, is pressuring legislators to re-criminalize the possession of marijuana, saying it has become "a dangerous drug."

He wants to overturn the state Supreme Court's ruling, and has tied the anti-marijuana legislation to a bill that addresses the manufacture of methamphetamine.

The marijuana/methamphetamine bill is currently in committee. House Majority Leader John Coghill said he thinks the bill will be approved despite the fact that many legislators do not support the portion that deals with marijuana.

What makes marijuana a dangerous drug, 30 years after the state Supreme Court ruled that people had a right to use it in the privacy of their own homes?

According to the Murkowski administration, the level of THC (the psychoactive component in marijuana) has drastically increased during the time that has elapsed, making it more potent and dangerous.

"They need to look at what kind of drug we have now," said Dean Guaneli, Alaska's chief assistant attorney general — noting that

because the drug has changed, people's right to privacy regarding the drug may also have changed.

If the bill passes, possession of more than four ounces of marijuana would be a felony in Alaska.

Possession of between one ounce and four ounces would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in prison, and possession of less than one ounce would be a misdemeanor punishable by up to 90 days in jail.

The state's anti-marijuana crusaders may be taking inspiration from the defeat of a recent ballot initiative that would have decriminalized the possession of any amount of marijuana. Almost 57 percent of voters voted against the measure, saying that marijuana possession should continue to be regulated.



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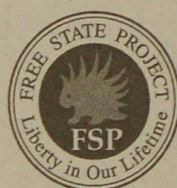
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Formal speakers and events 6/23 - 6/25

Where: Roger's Campground
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For more information and to register go to www.freestateproject.org/festival or email porcfest@freestateproject.org

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Online Resources for LP Members

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Exactly what is so appealing about the Fair Tax?

[Editor's note: In the April 2006 LP News, I printed a column by Richard Evey, supporting the Fair Tax proposal. I offered to print the best column written in response to Evey's column — primarily because the national LP has not endorsed the proposal. This is (in my opinion) the best of the several responses received.
—LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud]

Why there is enthusiasm for such a scheme as the Fair Tax is beyond me. The real issue is the unconstitutionally high spending rates and the taxes that go along with it.

If the federal government spent only on the constitutionally authorized functions, the existing excise taxes and tariffs on imports would suffice.

Now that's a cause to support! Misguided activists favoring the "Fair Tax" are enlisting themselves in support of all of the current unconstitutional, wasteful and counterproductive federal programs. Can you think of any political causes more deserving of your repudiation than that?

But there are further reasons to oppose this scheme:

■ The Fair Tax proposal can be passed by a simple majority of both houses of Congress plus the president's signature. But the much-touted repeal of the 16th Amendment, which authorizes the income tax, requires a much more demanding two-thirds vote in each house and then approval by 75 percent of state legislatures. There is, therefore, a significant likelihood that we could end up with both the 23 percent federal tax and the current income tax.

Who trusts politicians? Just because a bill reads one way when it is looking for sponsors doesn't mean it will read the same once it works its way through committee and the entire House and then the Senate and the conference committee.

Think of who will be involved in all of this: the Democrats, as well as a bunch of Republicans who are on the biggest spending spree since LBJ and the saviors of America who were elected with the Contract with America and then couldn't even kill off the NEA! In my dealings with Fair Tax enthusiasts I've challenged them repeatedly for years (and I'm asking readers here as well) to provide me with a single meaningful example of politicians trading away some power for a new taxing authority. So far, no examples.

■ The proposed national retail sales tax will be set at 23 percent; added to this will be the states' average sales taxes of more than 6 percent.

A 29 percent sales tax will generate pressure to turn the sales tax into a value-added tax (VAT). This will happen because such a large tax will generate a black market in goods to avoid the added tax. Politicians will find it necessary to

transform the Fair Tax into a tax at various stages of production — a VAT.

■ The much-touted end of the Internal Revenue Service is a sham. Some enforcement agency will be needed to handle tax collections.

Further, the Social Security Administration will keep records for the federal government to determine an individual's Social Security benefits based on their income. Here's the way it's stated at the Fair

Tax Web site: "Social Security [will] operate exactly as it does today... Employers will continue to report wages for each employee..."

■ Most importantly, working on this tax trade diverts scarce political energy from the cause of limiting federal spending and taxation to the cause of rearranging the means of tax collections. Just look at all the rallies, book signings, speeches, air time, etc., all ultimately in the service of the welfare/warfare state!

One could believe that this entire movement is a grand conspiracy to waste the time and energy of political activists — activists who are now chasing after insignificant differences in the way taxes are collected and therefore ignoring the real issues of obscenely high federal taxes and obscenely high federal spending.

In his column, Mr. Evey suggests reading *The Fair Tax Book*. I've done so twice. I've set up a Web site for

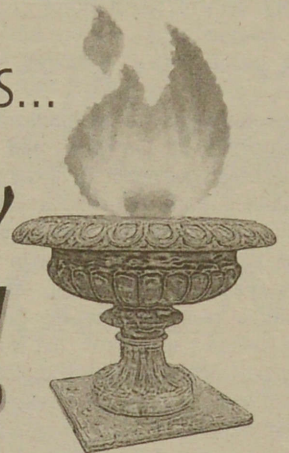
interested parties: www.gpc.edu/~jcox/Articles/2005/FairTaxForandAgainst.htm.

The Fair Tax is worthy of the support of statist political parties, but not Libertarians!

■ **About the author:** Jim Cox is an associate professor of economics and political science at Georgia Perimeter College, and is author of *The Concise Guide to Economics*. He joined the national LP in 1973.

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PRESENTS...

2005 Lights of Liberty AWARD WINNERS!



The Advocates for Self-Government congratulates the following people for outstanding libertarian activism that reached millions of people in 2005 with a positive libertarian message.

Each did one or more of the following: (1) had three or more letters-to-the-editor published with the word "libertarian" in them; (2) gave three or more libertarian-themed speeches to non-libertarian audiences; (3) participated in three or more Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) outreach booths. Each winner deserves our thanks and congratulations!

Those with ★★ by their names completed two of the three activities; the seven people with ★★★ did all three outreach activities — achieving the elite "Libertarian Triathlon" status.

■ ALABAMA

Stephen Gordon

■ ARKANSAS

★★★Ralph Klingsporn

■ CALIFORNIA

Bradley Bobbs, PhD
Ronald Getty
Paul Ireland
Jeff Katz
Ed Moss
Jarret B. Wollstein

■ COLORADO

Doug Anderson
Rand Fanshier
Kathy Rodeman
★★Mike Spalding

■ CONNECTICUT

Courtenay Hough

■ FLORIDA

Joel Bandy
Ian Bernard
Julie Chorgo
★★★Michael Gilson
DeLemos
Al P. Gutierrez
Paul Molloy
★★★Jeff Palmer
George Schwappach
Jeff Walenta

■ GEORGIA

★★Ben Brandon

■ ILLINOIS

Debra J. Aaron
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Valiant S. Vetter

■ KANSAS

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Robert Garrarde
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Mike Wilson

■ KENTUCKY

★★★Morgan Phelps

■ MICHIGAN

Andrew Wrenbeck

■ MINNESOTA

★★Corey Stern

■ MISSOURI

★★Darla Malaoney

■ MONTANA

★★Michael Fellows
★★Dave Merrick
Tom Wynia

■ NEW YORK

Andrew Gardner
Ellen Ricketson
Carl Ricketson
Marshall Stocker
Brian Sullivan
John D. Swanson
Curry Taylor

■ OREGON

Robert Hansen

■ PENNSYLVANIA

Mark Crowley
Tom Giles
Thomas Gillooly

■ SOUTH CAROLINA

Jenni Messel
★★Elizabeth Moultrie
Timothy Moultrie

■ TENNESSEE

Harry Browne
Andrew Lohr

■ TEXAS

Sally Brocato
Jeff Daiell

■ UTAH

Bruce A. Daniel, DDS

■ VERMONT

Harland A. Machia
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Steve Damerell
Josh Dunn
★★★Donny Ferguson
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Tony Torres
Milan Zacek

■ WASHINGTON

Ruth Bennett
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Astrid Geilen
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All winners received a handsome certificate of honor and valuable discount coupons for libertarian products. Their names and achievements are featured on an Honor Roll at our Web site, www.TheAdvocates.org.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

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TALKING POINTS

Federal budget, the B-2 bomber, and so-called security programs

■ Creating jobs

I'd always thought earmarks were a major problem in Washington. But I've turned over a new leaf.

My time in our nation's capital has fostered appreciation for the vast benefits that earmarks provide.

A lot of people in Washington are getting rich off earmarks, and it's about time I got my piece of the pie. So members of Congress, if you're reading this, how about sending an earmark my way — perhaps in the form of a shiny new boat?

Not a yacht or anything fancy, just a modest speedboat that would only set Uncle Sam back \$30,000.

To some critics, this earmark might represent an inappropriate use of taxpayer dollars. Elitist "good government" types would complain about the abuse of political clout and the propensity of such behavior to breed corruption.

But I don't buy that mumbo-jumbo anymore. I think my boat would be a jobs machine. I'll purchase an American-built boat from a local dealer, thus creating a number of manufacturing and service-sector jobs.

Just think: Who's going to scrape the barnacles off the bottom of my boat? Who will supply the gasoline? Who will provide winter storage?

Jobs, jobs, jobs.

Pointy-headed economists ... would probably point out that earmarked money must be first extracted from the job-creating private sector and then rammed through the inefficient federal bureaucracy before finally reaching its recipient.

But what do economists know about creating jobs? I say, send that boat my way.

—BRANDON ARNOLD

Myrtle Beach Sun News

April 2, 2006

■ Pay for performance

A new pay-for-performance program for Florida's teachers will tie raises and bonuses directly to pupils' standardized-test scores beginning next year, marking the first time a state has so closely linked the wages of individual school personnel to their students' exam results.

The effort, now being adopted by local districts, is viewed as a landmark in the movement to restructure American schools by having them face the same kind of competitive pressures placed on private enterprise.

Advocates say it could serve as a national model to replace traditional teacher pay plans that award raises based largely on academic degrees and years of experience.

[T]eachers unions and some education experts say any effort to evaluate teachers exclusively on test-score improvements will not work, because schools are not factories and their output is not so easily measured. An exam, they say, cannot measure how much teachers have inspired students, or whether they have instilled in them a life-long curiosity.

The pay program approved last month by the Board of Education is mandatory and intended to ensure compliance with a 2002 Florida law requiring performance pay for teachers.

Under pressure to score well on tests, some school districts have moved school start dates back to early August to complete extra weeks of instruction before March exams. This has aroused the ire of many parents, and others have complained that with the tests have come too much pressure and too much homework.

—PETER WHORISKEY

The Washington Post

March 22, 2006

■ It's all a joke

Saturday is April Fool's Day and President Bush ... has a great April Fool's joke planned. He's going to put out that old "Mission Accomplished" banner.

—DAVID LETTERMAN

The Late Show

March 24, 2006

■ Mandatory insurance

Lawmakers have approved a sweeping health care reform package that dramatically expands coverage for the state's uninsured, a bill that backers hope will become a model for the rest of the nation.

The plan would use a combination of financial incentives and penalties to expand access to health care over the next three years and extend coverage to the state's estimated 500,000 uninsured.

If all goes as planned, poor people will be offered free or heavily subsidized coverage; those who can afford insurance but refuse to get it will face increasing tax penalties until they obtain coverage; and those already insured will see a modest drop in their premiums.

On Tuesday, the House approved the bill on a 154-2 vote and the Senate endorsed it 37-0.

The bill requires all residents to be insured beginning July 1, 2007, either by purchasing insurance directly or obtaining it through their employer.

Individuals deemed able but

unwilling to purchase health care could face fines of more than \$1,000 a year by the state if they don't get insurance.

—STEVE LeBLANC

Associated Press

April 5, 2006

■ George Mason

The George Mason University basketball team's improbable run to the Final Four has trained a national spotlight on the suburban Washington college — and is focusing attention on the school's other accomplishments, as well.

"We like to think the basketball team caught up with the rest of the university," said George Mason Provost Peter N. Stearns. "It's given us prominence that we think we deserved already."

The university also is known as a haven for libertarian political thought, with a number of professors — mainly in the economics and law departments — who stress the principles of libertarianism, which champions individual freedom.

George Mason boasts two Nobel Prize laureates as professors, James Buchanan and Vernon Smith, who both won their awards in the field of economic sciences.

However, the school's namesake is still the original source of Patriot pride. George Mason, one of America's Founding Fathers, wrote the Virginia Declaration of Rights, which Thomas Jefferson used as a model for the Bill of Rights.

The "Father of the Bill of Rights" also refused to sign the Constitution because it contained a pro-slavery compromise.

—GARY EMERLING AND MICHAEL HUNSBERGER

The Washington Times

March 29, 2006

■ Playing the game

President Bush is a huge baseball fan.

Did you know he once wanted to be a professional baseball player? He just didn't have the ability.

Luckily, [having ability] is not a requirement to be president.

—JAY LENO

The Tonight Show

April 3, 2006

■ Hypocrisy

Nothing produces more finely chiseled hypocrisy than campaign politics.

Consider that on the issue of campaign-finance reform, Republicans and Democrats are now on the opposite sides of where they were only four years ago.

And they're both still claiming this is all a matter of high moral principle.

The worst chiselers are House Republicans, who opposed McCain-Feingold back in 2002 on grounds that it was a violation of free speech and wouldn't stop the flow of money in any case. They were right at the time.

But this week they are going to try and do John McCain one better, or should we say worse, and vote to curb so-called 527 organizations. These are the funding vehicles that George Soros, Stephen Bing and

■ Privacy rights

Government agencies that use private information services for law enforcement, counterterrorism and other investigations often do not follow federal rules to protect Americans' privacy, according to a report yesterday by the Government Accountability Office.

The Justice Department, the Department of Homeland Security and two other agencies examined by the GAO spent about \$30 million last year on companies that maintain billions of electronic files about adults' current and past addresses, family members and associates, buying habits, personal finances, listed and unlisted phone numbers, and much more.

But those agencies often do not limit the collection and use of information about law-abiding citizens, as required by the Privacy Act of 1974 and other laws.

The agencies also don't ensure the accuracy of the information they are buying, according to the GAO report. The 83-page report, the subject of a congressional hearing yesterday, was spurred in part by massive security breaches reported last year by ChoicePoint Inc. and LexisNexis in which sensitive files involving almost 200,000 people were sold to fraud artists.

—ROBERT O'HARROW, JR.

The Washington Post

April 5, 2006

■ Immigration

House conservatives criticized President Bush, accused the Senate of fouling the air, said prisoners rather than illegal farm workers should pick America's crops and denounced the use of Mexican flags by protesters Thursday in a vehement attack on legislation to liberalize U.S. immigration laws.

More than a dozen Republicans took turns condemning a Senate bill that offers an estimated 11 million illegal immigrants an opportunity for citizenship.

Rep. J.D. Hayworth of Arizona and others said Republicans would pay a price in the midterm elections if they vote for anything like the Senate legislation.

"Many of those who have stood for the Republican Party for the last decade are not only angry. They will be absent in November," he said.

Rohrabacher said Americans should be able to "smell the foul odor that's coming out of the U.S. Senate."

Asked a few moments later whether the same odor was emanating from the president, he said, "I have no comment."

—DENNIS COOK

Associated Press

March 30, 2006



MISSION ACCOMPLISHED

Harold Ickes have used to (legally) evade McCain-Feingold and help elect liberal Democrats.

—The Wall Street Journal

April 3, 2006

■ Please arrest me

A 69-year-old New York man who developed heart problems but can't afford treatment has surrendered on 1971 bank robbery charges, hoping to get medical help.

Gerald Geller suffered a heart attack eight months ago while living in what the *New York Post* described as a "flop house" in the Bowery. Unable to pay for a doctor, he made the decision to turn himself in on charges stemming from the armed heist of \$63,500 from a Manhattan bank on Sept. 3, 1971.

He was indicted in 1972 but has eluded capture ever since.

Despite his surrender, Geller pleaded not guilty at his arraignment Tuesday, the newspaper said.

However, his change of heart may be in vain, as law enforcement sources said the case is so old, there may not be any witnesses or evidence left to bring him to trial, meaning it could be dropped.

If that happens, he'll have to look after his own medical bills, the report said.

—The Washington Times

March 29, 2006

■ Immigration

What happens when six Tibetan monks on a peace mission to the United States overstay their visas? Immigrations officials, accompanied by a SWAT team in riot gear, arrest them.

That's just what happened to a group of monks recently in Omaha. At last report, they had bonded out of jail and were awaiting trial in an immigration court. Their attorney says they want to leave the country but have to stay until the government permits them to leave.

—CHARLES OLIVER

Reason Online

April 4, 2006

■ Deception

Jon Corzine, New Jersey's new Governor, isn't the first politician not to follow through on a campaign promise. But rarely is such dishonesty later presented as a virtue.

Mr. Corzine won the Trenton statehouse last year by running as a tax cutter who'd raise property tax rebates by 40 percent over four years. "I'm not considering raising taxes. It's not on my agenda. We have a very high-rate tax structure. I'm not considering it," the then-U.S. senator had vowed in October.

Well, last week Gov. Corzine removed the Steve Forbes mask and submitted a record \$30.9 billion budget that increases state spending by 9 percent and includes \$1.5 billion in new levies. He wants to raise the already high state sales tax by 16 percent and extend it to services; hike taxes on cigarettes, alcohol and expensive cars; and create a new state water tax.

"There are no immediate plans," joked one local paper, "to tax the air we breathe — not this year, at least."

And what about his pledge to more than double property tax rebates in a state where the average homeowner's tax bill has risen by \$1,300 in the past four years? That's on ice for now, and perhaps until he's running for re-election.

While voters might feel misled by this 180-degree turn, Mr. Corzine is winning praise from fellow Democrats as a "straight shooter" brave enough to make "hard choices."

Former Gov. Jim Florio said, "I think this is an intellectually honest budget." Senator Robert Menendez, who was appointed to serve the remainder of Mr. Corzine's term, commended the governor for submitting the "most honest, fiscally responsible budget in years."

These Democrats have an odd definition of truthfulness, but then Mr. Florio himself pushed through huge tax increases in the early 1990s after saying he wouldn't.

Democratic Governor James McGreevey also campaigned on a promise to lower tax burdens. The day after winning office in 2001, he declared, "I am ruling out a tax increase," yet he went on to raise the state's top marginal rate by 41

percent and make New Jersey's top income tax rate the fifth-highest in the country.

—The Wall Street Journal

March 29, 2006

■ April fools

Shortly after April Fool's Day turned into today, we foolishly set our clocks forward for the annual launch of Daylight Savings Time. Unless you show up an hour late for church, you probably won't think much about it. Thankfully, Congress is thinking about it for you.

Not content to make a mess of

just the federal budget, ... Congress has imposed chaos on our clocks. The pork-filled energy bill signed by President Bush last year will extend DST by about a month starting in 2007.

Why? Congress thinks this little time trick reduces our "addiction" to foreign oil and cuts electricity use. But the so-called evidence that DST accomplishes any such thing is as suspect as a clock that strikes 13.

Spring forward/fall back proponents want you to believe DST was responsible for the United States reducing its oil use by hundreds of thousands of barrels each day

during the 1970s energy crisis. That statistic is the main reason we switch our clocks twice a year. It is a primary reason that Congress said it was extending DST by a month. And of course, it's not true.

In her 2001 appearance at a congressional hearing, Linda Lawson, an official with the U.S. Department of Transportation, explained: "Due to the limited data sample [of the 1975 DOT study], the findings were judged 'probable' rather than conclusive."

Got that? It turns out the great energy-saver is really a guesstimate from an inconclusive study ... that

is over 30 years old.

In her testimony, Lawson went on to urge Congress to look for new studies that "consider the impact of changes on ... and transportation energy use, including the potential for increased travel demand resulting from more evening daylight and increased gasoline use."

In other words, ... did anybody stop to think that people might actually take advantage of the daylight by driving their gas-burning cars to more places?

—DAVID NOTT

The Washington Times

April 2, 2006

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PEIRCE LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR

MAKE OHIO FREE AGAIN

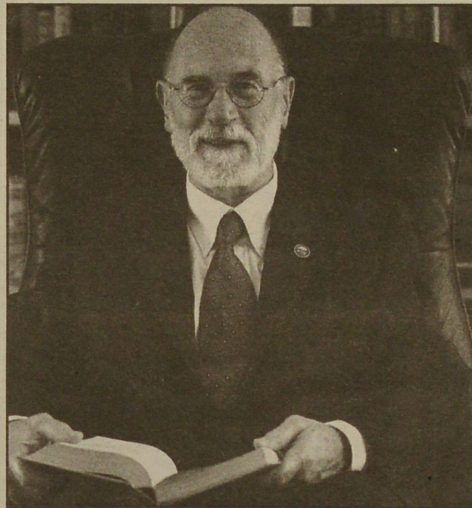
Ohio ranks near the wrong end of all of the recent rankings of the states: highest tax burden, least economic freedom, worst environment for small business survival. It is also the 48th fastest growing state in population.

The major parties just don't get the message. Ohio has been misgoverned by Republicans for decades and the Democrats are promising even more of the same. As Bill Peirce has traveled around the state he has found voters everywhere fed up with professional politicians and eager to hear the message of limited government and individual freedom and responsibility.

While the Republican and Democrat parties are torn by bitter primary battles, the Peirce campaign has obtained the endorsement of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, has selected Mark Noble for the Lieutenant Governor slot on the ticket, and has launched the drive to obtain the 5,000 valid signatures needed to secure a place on the ballot.

FREE TO PROSPER - FREE TO LIVE

Bill Peirce will devote full time to carrying the message of freedom to the people of Ohio. Government has failed so badly in the State that voters are ready to listen to a Libertarian message. The only thing we lack is the money to get the message to the people. This is a campaign that can make a difference. Please help us.



About Dr. Bill Peirce

After earning an A.B. degree from Harvard in 1960 and a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton in 1966, Peirce taught in the Economics Department of Case Western Reserve University for more than 35 years. During 6 of those years he served as chairman of the Economics Department. He was named Professor Emeritus of Economics in 2002. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, in 1988-89, and at the University of Mannheim, Germany, in 1996.

Bill Peirce has published books on Bureaucratic Failure, Energy Economics, and Technological Change. He has also written articles, chapters, and short pieces on labor economics, the extractive industries, privatization, the European Union, and local public finance. Teaching specialties include Public Finance, Public Choice, and Energy Economics.

Peirce is a Trustee of the American Institute for Economic Research and serves as Academic Advisor to the Heartland Institute and the Buckeye Institute. He is a member of the American Economic Association, the Public Choice Society, and the International Association of Energy Economists.

Bill Peirce has been married for 39 years and has 3 children.

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AFFILIATE NEWS

Declining to run for office and opposing eminent domain

■ MASSACHUSETTS

Active libertarian runs for Georgetown board

Steve Epstein, a lawyer in Georgetown, Mass., is running for the board of selectmen in the town of 8,000. The nonpartisan election is scheduled for May 8.

Epstein has run for this office before, in 1998, but this time is different: He's putting more energy into the race, the incumbent is not running for re-election, and Epstein has grown more well-known in town over the years.

An April 6 story in the *Georgetown Record* pointed out how active Epstein has been in the community since moving there in 1987.

"Epstein certainly has kept himself busy since moving to Georgetown," the reporter noted. "In addition to opening his own law practice in town, he was a part of the volunteer effort to build American Legion Park in the late '80s and has served on the Zoning Board of Appeals, the Government Review Committee and the Cable Review Committee."

"As a registered member of the Libertarian Party, Epstein has also represented the Citizens for Limited

Taxation and Government ... [and] is well known as a founder of the Massachusetts Cannabis Reform Coalition."

Epstein's opponent in the race has publicly refused to take part in a proposed series of public debates with him.

A major difference between the two is that Epstein's opponent has said he plans "to work hard to ensure the school department gets whatever it needs to maintain services," while Epstein says the time has come to draw the line.

"You wish you could give every department everything they want, but the Constitution obliges all representatives to do it frugally," Epstein told the *Record*. "You've just got to sometimes say 'no' and it's hard to say 'no.' I want everybody to do well, but you can't legislate utopia and you certainly can't spend your way to utopia."

■ NEW MEXICO

NM LP succeeds in getting on the ballot

In late March, the New Mexico Secretary of State's office said that the Libertarian Party's petition for

party status — submitted in November — had enough valid signatures.

"The certification as a minor party is a major hurdle the LPNM had to obtain, as it enables the party to nominate candidates to run for office under the Libertarian name on the ballot," state LP Chair Jay Vandersloot said.

Vandersloot noted that if the petition had been rejected, forcing Libertarians to run as Independents, "they would have to collect three times the number of petition signatures to get on the ballot."

"The party has already nominated three candidates for statewide office, but state law requires approximately 7,500 valid signatures on additional petitions for each of them," Richard Winger of the non-partisan *Ballot Access News* wrote at Ballot-Access.org.

"Next, the Libertarian Party will probably file a lawsuit, arguing that since it has demonstrated it has ... voter support, it is unconstitutional for the state to require additional thousands of signatures in support of the party's convention nominees," Winger continued, noting that a similar lawsuit was won against Maryland in 2003.

Currently, New Mexico is the only state which expects a political party to collect petition signatures to qualify as an official party, and then collect separate petitions for each candidate for office, he said.

■ NEW YORK

LP starts anti-eminent domain campaign

Officials and members of the Libertarian Party of New York are launching a "spring offensive," hoping to influence legislators to amend state law to ban eminent domain abuse.

Some candidates — including Eric Sundwall (running for Congress in the 20th District) and Jeff Russell (running for U.S. Senate) — have announced they will be emphasizing the misuse of eminent domain in their campaigns.

Representatives of groups who have been victimized by such property seizures have been contacted to participate, including those in Albany's Park South community and in Brooklyn, where residents are threatened with being kicked out of their homes to build a new stadium for the NY Nets.

"New Yorkers grow impatient that, nine months after the U.S. Supreme Court's widely criticized Kelo decision, no bill has yet emerged from the state legislature to prevent state or local government from using eminent domain to take property from homeowners, to benefit private developers," New York LP Chair John Clifton said.

Clifton said the law needs to specifically outlaw "eminent domain abuse for commercial and economic development purposes," and that "the term 'blighted' needs to be very precisely defined in the law, before the designation is applied to deprive citizens or whole communities of their property."

■ NEW YORK

Bill Weld seeks LP nomination for governor

Bill Weld, former governor of Massachusetts, is one of the Republican Party's hopeful candidates for governor in New York — and he is trying to get the Libertarian Party's backing.

The word "libertarian [is] not a bad word in my lexicon," he told the *New York Daily News* in a story published April 7 — pointing out that he wants "the government out of your pocketbook and out of your bedroom."

Republican voters make up only about 37 percent of the total voting population, the *Daily News* reported, so they are trying to get any additional backing they can.

To the major news media, the only real question is whether the LP's hoped-for backing will help push Weld ahead in the Republican primary.

But libertarians have other concerns. Preeminent among them, at least for readers of the libertarian Hammer of Truth blog: If Weld does not win the Republican primary,

would he still run as the LP's candidate?

Others have noted that the governor's race is one through which the LP can gain permanent ballot status. If Weld is selected as the New York LP's gubernatorial candidate, and receives at least 50,000 votes (which, if he's also the Republican candidate, he would certainly do) then the LP would have the ballot status it needs to affect other races.

Weld has publicly announced that he opposes eminent domain abuse, noting that giving broad leeway to local governments to seize private property reminds him of "Communist China." He is himself a past victim of an eminent domain seizure of one of his properties and says the practice must stop.

■ WISCONSIN

Thompson declines to run for Congress in '06

Ed Thompson, who earned 10 percent of the vote as the Libertarian Party candidate for governor of Wisconsin in the 2002 race, has announced that despite positive polling and other hearty encouragement, he is not going to run for office this year, according to Web site WisPolitics.com.

Thompson is currently serving a two-year term as a member of the Tomah City Council. He was elected to that position in April 2005, entirely unexpectedly: He wasn't running for the position and had actually planned to take a break from politics.

More than 90 percent of voters, however, wrote his name on their ballots. He initially declined the job, then later said he felt he would be "shirking responsibility and duty" if he didn't serve in office as elected.

Earlier, in 2000, Thompson was elected mayor in Tomah, with 58 percent of the vote.

Many people have urged him to challenge Democratic incumbent Ron Kind for the 3rd Congressional District seat this fall, and Thompson said he had considered it but has decided not to run this year.

One poll, Thompson said, showed that he would receive 24 percent of the vote in his district — no matter what party banner he ran under. Hopefully that support will continue, or grow even further, before 2008, when Thompson said there is a "very strong possibility" he will run for Congress.

He also noted that he has been approached about running as a Republican, but has decided he cannot do so — even if it would increase his chances of winning the election.

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- Work LNC members more through committees
- Stop bad transitions (like zero dues and Raiser's Edge)

Credentials

- Chair, Libertarian Party of Pennsylvania
- Region 5E Alternate, Libertarian National Committee
- Secretary, Libertarian National Congressional Committee
- Life Member, Libertarian Party
- Law Student, Villanova Law School
- Intern, Cato Institute
- 2004 U.S. Congress candidate, PA District 13

1-888-LIBERTARIAN www.chuckmoulton.org
1-877-MOULTON chuck@moulton.org

Why libertarians and capitalists shouldn't shop at Walmart

After reading J. Daniel Cloud's "Shop where you like" column in the March 2006 issue of *LP News*, I am inclined to agree: Shop where you like! But Libertarians should not like to shop at Walmart.

By Shana Fassett

Why? Because they are a large corporation? Absolutely not. Corporations, big business and the Internet are not the death of small business. Indeed, all three facilitate competition and innovation, thus aiding the economy.

Where would we be today without Ford? Without VISA? Without Microsoft and IBM?

Ford began the practice of higher wages for its employees — a logical, self-interested policy that allowed its own employees to become customers and thus contribute to Ford's success. Credit services such as VISA enabled trade on a larger scale with interstate and international communities. Microsoft and IBM, as large companies, were able to spread the Windows software system so vastly that jobs, businesses and innovative ideas burst forth like Old Faithful, unstoppable and exhilarating to witness.

No, big business is not a problem, but a solution — just as small business facilitates the economy in many ways as well, such as keeping out monopolies. A wise consumer understands that the best approach is to "spread the wealth," so to speak: Shop both with national stores and local stores, thereby promoting healthy business across the board.

Libertarianism does not mean anti-big-business and pro-small-business.

Then why should Libertarians not shop at Walmart? Simple: Walmart is anti-libertarian. The corporation has repeatedly used laws and regulations that the Libertarian Party works against. Using eminent domain, using tax-payer money to finance their expansion, and actively encouraging their employees to use government assistance programs are just a few of their standard operating procedures. As Libertarians, we are all aware of the detrimental effect such programs have on the economy and liberty.

I choose not to shop at Walmart because they do not, despite their promotional ads that say otherwise, contribute to the communities they are in. I do not believe such contribution is an obligation, but I do believe, as a capitalist, that I have a vested interest in my community. A healthy community creates a healthy customer base and a stronger economy in the long run.

I choose not to shop at Walmart because of their dog-eat-dog idea of destroying any and all competition. Any capitalist and business owner knows that competition is the essential base of fair trade. I want competition. It means more

products and services for me as a consumer to buy and, as a business owner, to sell.

Competition creates opportunity. Walmart's policy and "more money now, let the future worry about itself" mentality is dangerous.

I choose not to shop at Walmart because it is an "ends justify the means" type of company. This mentality has been a major force behind fascism and socialism alike: What does it matter if we had to trample

on the liberties of hundreds, if it was for the greater good? What does it matter if 50 years from now my customer base is destroyed because of the economic wasteland I've created, as long as my shareholders are happy now and I look successful?

These are just a few of the reasons why libertarians and capitalists (which should be the same group of people) should not shop at any business that operates in such a manner — and none of the reasons

I've listed have anything to do with Walmart being big business.

Having said this, government intervention is definitely not a solution and never should be. Personal consumer boycott is the solution.

Just as I would not shop at a store that supports socialism, the KKK or the PATRIOT Act, I will not shop at any business, large or small, that practices business ethics like Walmart's.

Granted, there are probably

many businesses that I shop at that do have such practices — but that is because I am not always aware of the operation procedures of every business I frequent, nor can I be expected to be aware of them all.

However, when I am aware of such business practices, I can choose to put my money where my mouth is and not contribute to them. Do what you can, where you can.

Indeed, shop where you like. Should we like to shop at Walmart?

Do. Or do not. There is no try.
-Yoda "The Empire Strikes Back"

The character is fictitious. The wisdom is real and profound. The lesson to be learned can help us change the future.

Star Wars was a movie filled with symbolism. The bad guy was huge, powerful, and dressed in black. The hero was idealistic, defiant, and dressed in white. A wise master appears unexpectedly to guide the hero. Even though the situation seemed hopeless, and the odds were overwhelming, the hero and his supporters refused to give up.

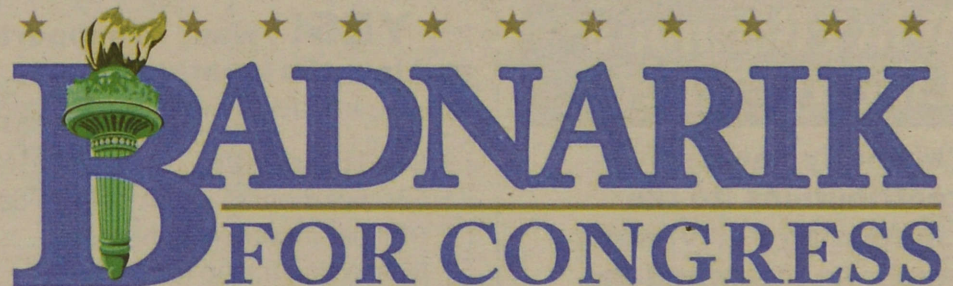
Like Luke Skywalker, I am brave, and stubbornly determined to win. My campaign manager is Allen Hacker. Like Obi-Wan Kenobi, he is wise and knows our opposition's weaknesses.

We have already raised over \$150,000 for this campaign, but we need more. I'm asking you to join the *Rebel Alliance* by donating to my campaign. The difference between victory and defeat is in your hands! Will you contribute? Or contribute not?

Please visit our website now and give the largest contribution you can.

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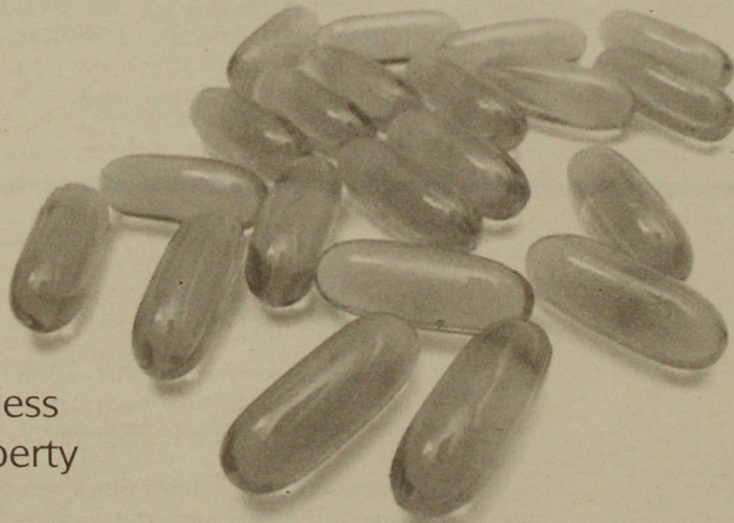
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Changes to LP Bylaws proposed

[Editor's note: This is the sixth in a series of articles detailing the activities of the national LP's 2006 Bylaws Committee. The committee is considering alterations to the LP bylaws — proposed changes that will be voted on at the 2006 national LP convention in Portland, Ore. Previous proposals were printed in the September 2005-February 2006 issues of LP News.]

To recap, the 2006 Bylaws Committee is using sentiment polling to rank all proposals for change that come before the committee. Each member indicates his sentiments for each proposal.

The possible sentiments are strongly opposed, somewhat opposed, neutral, somewhat in favor or strongly in favor. By assigning a numerical value from 1 to 5 for these sentiments, we are able to gauge the degree to which the proposal is supported.

We actively welcome proposals from LP members. While there are 10 people on this committee, it is possible that we will not see every advantage or pitfall the various proposals may present.

The Web site is up and available for you to review the proposals that were previously presented in LP News, to comment on those proposals, and to make suggestions. The URL is lp.org/bylaws/index.php. Check it out.

Many thanks to Shane Cory and Sean Haugh for enabling the site.

By Dan Karlan

■ Proposal 21: Reduce super-majority needed to amend the Statement of Principles

Currently, amending the Statement of Principles requires approval by seven-eighths (87.5 percent) of all registered delegates at a national LP convention.

There are three versions of this proposal, each of which would reduce the super-majority. The three alternate fractions are four-fifths (80 percent), three-quarters (75 percent), and two-thirds (66.7 percent).

It must be appreciated that because of the wording of the LP Bylaws and Robert's Rules of Order, the action of making this change would require approval by seven-eighths of all registered delegates — just as amending the Statement of Principles itself requires.

■ Proposal 22: Define Sustaining Members and set (minimum) dues

One possible interpretation of the Bylaws regarding dues allows for ambiguity — an ambiguity that this LNC exploited last year to set membership dues to zero.

Many of us on the Bylaws Committee believe this action was inconsistent with the Bylaws, and would like to remove any ambiguity by defining "sustaining members" as those whose dues are current.

Also, we would like either to set the dues in the Bylaws — which cannot to be changed by the LNC — or to set a minimum dues level, which the LNC could exceed but could not reduce.

■ Proposal 23: Change method of selecting the VP nominee

This proposal is actually two similar proposals.

The first would allow the LP's presidential nominee to name his running mate.

The second proposal would also allow the presidential candidate to select his running mate, but would give convention delegates the opportunity to approve (or reject) the presidential candidate's selected running mate.

One member of the Bylaws Committee expressed his support for the first proposal this way: "Because of federal law the VP is a part of the ticket. It can not have its own bank account or filings. We must start making it a real ticket by creating a team for the Presidential run."

■ Proposal 24: Allow reduction in base of quorum calculations

Currently, a quorum at an LP convention is calculated on the basis of the total number of delegates registered for the convention

At some conventions, so many delegates leave before the final meeting that the remaining delegates barely form a quorum.

This proposal would permit the LNC secretary and the Credentials Committee to take into account, when calculating the quorum, those delegates who have departed early.

(In coming months, we'll present other proposals.)

■ About the author: LNC member Dan Karlan is secretary of the 2006 Bylaws Committee.

THE PROFILE

Rush's Neil Peart

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

There are good drummers. There are great drummers. And then there's Neil Peart of the Canadian progressive rock band Rush.

Peart is one of the most honored and influential drummers in rock history. Known for his massive drum kit, exotic percussion instruments, and complicated solos, he was inducted into Modern Drummer's Hall of Fame in 1983, and was honored 13 times for "Best Recorded Performance" for his drum work on Rush albums between 1981 and 2002.

Neil Ellwood Peart was born in 1952 in Ontario, Canada. In 1974, he joined Geddy Lee (vocals, bass, keyboards) and guitarist Alex Lifeson to form the current lineup of Rush. Musically, the band has always been defined by Lee's high, soaring voice and the complicated interplay of instruments.

Early Rush albums were influenced by British blues/rockers like Led Zeppelin and The Who, while later albums became more "progressive," with longer, more ambitious songs, heavy use of synthesizers, and a greater variety of instruments.

In the early to mid-80s, the band released several radio-friendly albums, and achieved their greatest commercial success. By the late 1990s, Rush had returned to a more guitar-driven sound. In 2005, the band celebrated its 30th anniversary with the release of a live album, *R30: 30th Anniversary World Tour*.

Rush was inducted into the Canadian Music Hall of Fame in 1994, and won nine Juno Awards (the Canadian equivalent of the Emmys), including one in 1990 as "Artist of the Decade."

Rush's studio albums include *Rush* (1974), *Fly by Night* (1975), *Caress of Steel* (1975), *2112* (1976), *A Farewell to Kings* (1977), *Hemispheres* (1978), *Permanent Waves* (1980), *Moving Pictures* (1981), *Signals* (1982), *Grace Under Pressure* (1984), *Power Windows* (1985), *Hold Your Fire* (1987), *Presto* (1989), *Roll the Bones* (1991), *Counterparts* (1993), *Test for Echo* (1996), and *Vapor Trails* (2002).

Besides its musical ambition and instrumental proficiency, there is one other thing that sets Rush apart from most bands — the strong libertarian/Objectivist themes in its lyrics, which are written by Peart.

The band's 1976 album, *2112*, was even dedicated to "the genius of Ayn Rand." The album, inspired by Rand's novel *Anthem*, is about a future society where the rediscovery of the guitar threatens a totalitarian society. It's no surprise that Rush is the only band ever cited in the *Journal of Ayn Rand Studies*.

In more recent years, Peart has distanced himself somewhat from Rand and her Objectivist philosophy. In an online chat on www.2112.net (Nov. 4, 1993), Peart downplayed Rand's impact on him.

"For a start, the extent of my influence by the writings of Ayn Rand should not be overestimated — I am no one's disciple," he said. "Yes, I believe the individual is paramount in matters of justice and liberty, but in philosophy, as Aristotle said long ago, the paramount good is happiness."

A number of Peart's songs clearly hint at his libertarian sensibilities. The song "Free Will" (from *Permanent Waves*) proclaims: "I will choose a path that's clear / I will choose free will." "Tom Sawyer" (from *Moving Pictures*) states: "His mind is not for rent / To any god or government." And "Something for Nothing" (from *2112*), cautions: "You don't get something for nothing / You don't get freedom for free."

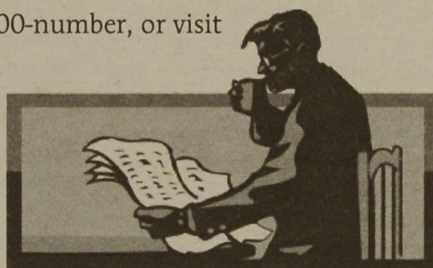
According to a 2005 story on www.JewsRock.org — a site devoted to Jewish rock 'n' roll musicians — "Peart now refers to himself as a 'left-leaning libertarian.'"

In addition to his career in music, Peart has published four books: *The Masked Rider* (1996), *Ghost Rider: Travels on the Healing Road* (2002), *Traveling Music: Playing Back the Soundtrack to My Life and Times* (2004), and *Roadshow: Landscape With Drums, A Concert Tour By Motorcycle* (2006).

■ Each month, LP News features a column about celebrities who call themselves libertarian. This article reprinted with permission from the *Advocates for Self-Government*. To read profiles of dozens of libertarian celebrities, visit: www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html.

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THE EDITOR

Reconsidering 'rights'

What is a product worth? There are two people who have to answer this question: The person who produces it and the person who is interested in buying it. Unless consumers buy, no one sells — and unless someone has products to get rid of, no one can buy anything.

I recently got into a discussion with a tailor who was complaining that he can't sell his clothing for as much as he wants. Actually, he sometimes does, but people who have grown accustomed to off-the-rack prices frequently enter his shop, ask how much it would cost to make a particular item of clothing, then try to argue the price down.

They'll ask him how much his materials cost, how much of the final price is for labor, etc. — then offer to purchase the cloth elsewhere in an effort to cut costs. Or they'll try to get him to accept less for the labor and for his expertise.

"If someone knows what the materials I use cost, then they can negotiate the cost down to where I get paid almost nothing for the labor that goes into my clothing," he said — adding that the cost of materials is "information that should be privy only to the craftspeople themselves."

Finally, he said, "I want to be rewarded for the time I have put into perfecting my craft. I deserve that."

For a capitalist — a person who tries to sell goods for a living — this guy had an abysmally low level of understanding of how the system works.

Number one: The cost of materials is beside the point. There are many "products" that have little or no materials cost. How much do a writer's materials cost? Do we count time as a material?

At an early point in my multi-profession career I worked as a tree surgeon for a period of several months. When we cut trees, if the owner didn't want the wood, I'd haul it off, chop it up and sell it as firewood. My cost in materials was virtually nil — but that didn't change the value of the finished product.

The cost of materials is not a primary issue. What determines the value of a product — whether it's firewood, a computer, or (in the case of the aforementioned tailor) a suit of clothes — is what the consumer is willing to pay. It's worth what you can sell it for.

What raised my hackles most about the tailor's opinions was that he said he deserves to be "rewarded" for the time and energy he expended in learning his craft. He said he has a right to be recompensed for his expertise, so it's unfair for people to ask for a lower price than what he wants.

A right? No, assuredly not.

Yes, any artist or craftsman or other vendor has a right to demand a certain amount for what he's providing. And every consumer has a right to say the price is too high, and ask for a lower price.

Do I have a right to be paid for the time and effort that goes into my work? No way — unless somebody agrees to pay for it. As I told him, the only way I deserve to make any money at all is if someone wants to pay for what I've done.

"But all I want is to make the best possible clothing," he said. "Are you saying that's wrong?"

"Not at all," I responded. "If you want to make the best suits in the world, go ahead and do so. But what's more important to you: making great clothing or making a living? If you can't make a living by doing what you most want to do, you should either find something else to do or get used to being broke."

"Don't I have a right to do what I choose for a living?" he asked.

"Of course you do," I said. "And you also have a right to be poor if no one is willing to pay what you ask for your products."

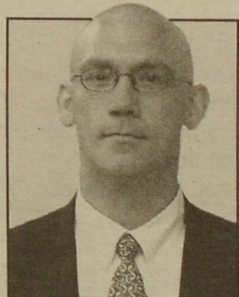
I then told him I was willing to pay his asking price to alter a suit for me, and later dropped off the suit. He did a masterful job on it.

"Now, you deserve this money. You have a right to it, because I agreed to pay it," I told him when I picked up my suit a week later. "I value the work you did. But you don't have a right to expect any more work or more money from me just now."

He understood, and I think he'll readress his profligate use of the words "right" and "deserve" in the future.

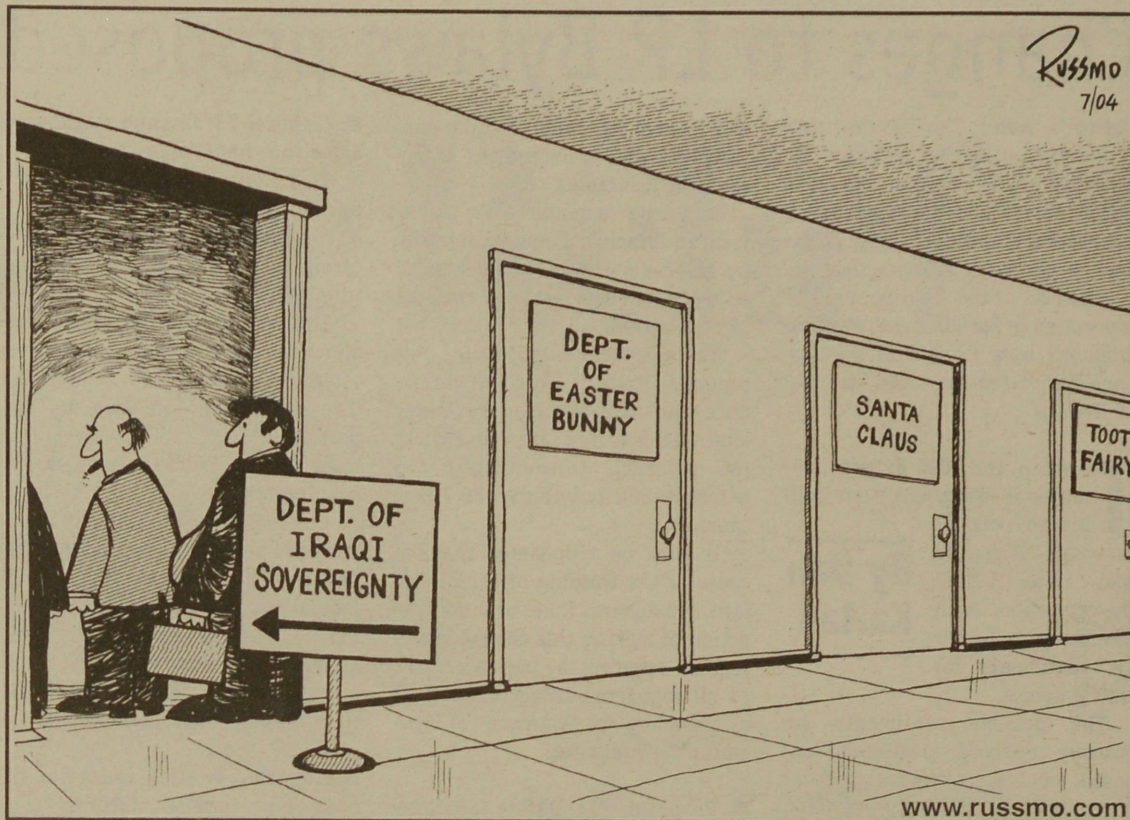
It's truly unfortunate how frequently we hear people talking about rights and what they think is owed to them. It is human nature, I guess, for people to think they're entitled to what they want.

But too often, now, they extend that feeling of entitlement to include the idea that everyone else must support their "right."



By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR



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THE MAILBOX

Christian nation

It is sad that you are totally ignorant of American history and biased against Christianity. (RE: **Editor's Note** in response to the "Christian Exodus" letter in the March 2006 *LP News*.)

"Christians and other deists"! What kind of nonsense is that?

The charters of colonies founded in the 1600s and 1700s all noted that they were founding their colonies for Christ.

In 1834 Alexis de Toqueville noted that he could scarcely see government in America, but that Christianity permeated all aspects of American life.

This was truly a Christian nation until people like yourself came along and began the assault against Christianity. Why are you doing that? Are you one of those Randists who ridicule people who believe in God?

—ROBERT JOSEPH UNDERWOOD
Springfield, Massachusetts

[Editor's note: Actually, no. I am a Christian. In that previous comment, I was responding to a contention that Christianity made America great. As I said before, the religion did not make America great. People who believed in Christ certainly helped make this a great nation, but a religion is simply a system of beliefs — and beliefs alone don't create nations. People do. So, once again, the United States is a great nation because of Americans.]

Charitable donations

I just visited the LP.org Web site to see if there was a way that I

could use a libertarian organization to contribute to the victims of the Tennessee tornados. Nothing found. I did this because in the aftermath Hurricane Katrina, I contributed to the American Red Cross, only to learn later that millions of dollars were stolen from the Red Cross during the Katrina recovery.

I can't afford this anymore than I can afford financing my country in

and should include their contact information and spaces for people to post affidavits vouching for the honesty and earnestness of those requesting the resources.

If we are to systematically deconstruct government, we will simultaneously, and just as systematically, need to enhance voluntary charitable organizations, or things may get worse before they get better.

—PAT BROCK
Kihei, Hawaii

Immigration

I am shocked at the apparent silence of the national LP regarding the totalitarian-style attack on the rights of undocumented immigrants proposed in HR 4437.

We have an unprecedented opportunity to ride a powerful, emotionally charged wave of pro-liberty activism in this country, and our swift and principled response is critical in order for us to be recognized as the strongest pro-liberty voice in the nation.

Members of the Libertarian Party of Sarasota County (Florida) are organizing grassroots opposition to HR 4437 at the local level, and we believe it is vitally important that this issue be addressed simultaneously at the national level.

Let's not drop the ball on this one!

—MENNO TROYER
Sarasota, Florida

**IF WE ARE TO
systematically
deconstruct
government, we need
to simultaneously
enhance voluntary
charitable giving.**

international adventurism.

Then I read in *LP News* that ad hoc organizations of libertarians had assembled, collected funds and supplies, and done some good in New Orleans.

I was heartened by this for two reasons: 1) I have found libertarians to be sincere and proactive. 2) If we are not going to fund our government to take responsibility for coming to our rescue when disasters happen, then we will need to.

There ought to be an LP.org Web page dedicated to charitable organizations and endeavors. It should include links to known self-supporting charity web pages. It should also include listings of ad hoc groups and willing Samaritans on, or near, the scene of the disaster,



THE MAILBOX

Hispanic voters

This is in answer to the letter from Chris Vaughan from Indianapolis, Indiana, regarding the Hispanic vote.

I agree that Hispanic voters are a very important and neglected source of support. I am the Web master for the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association. Our Web site, www.pvla.net, appears in Spanish as well as English. I have also translated literature for several Massachusetts campaigns into Spanish.

PVLA has been very supportive in the effort, as has PVLA member George Phillies. I have translated "Stand Up for Liberty," into Spanish under the title "Lucha Por Tu Libertad."

At times we have gotten more visitors on the Spanish side of our Web sites than on the English side.

In addition, I have run for state representative and city councilor. Most of the people who signed my nomination forms have Spanish names, which in Springfield, Mass., means they're probably Puerto Rican. Many of the signers preferred Spanish. Most of them knew about the nomination process whereas most natives of Springfield who were educated in the Springfield public schools do not. I just had to explain my platform in Spanish.

Most of them were ready to sign anyway when they learned I wanted to kick out the incumbents. Almost none of the Puerto Ricans asked to sign my "nomination form" refused.

On some streets my campaign is being conducted in Spanish as much as it is in English. In some cases when people found that I was running for public office they called their neighbors over to their apartments for an impromptu presentation.

I definitely have been getting some support because of my ability to get my point across in Spanish. I have been concentrating on issues that matter to people — specifically high taxes, unemployment and dysfunctional government.

—ROBERT JOSEPH UNDERWOOD
Springfield, Massachusetts

Immigration II

Listening to the dreaded "mainstream media" during recent weeks I have noticed that the national debate is no longer about "illegal immigration," it is now simply "immigration" — as if people were NOT just walking over our borders at a time when we are supposed to be at war!

Of course, it is part of the official Libertarian Party platform to have an "open door" policy with regard to immigration, and this policy has been presented and advocated in the pages of the *LP News* recently by prominent Libertarians, but I would like to ask my fellow libertarians if this policy makes sense at a time

when our government has made so many bitter enemies for the American people, and when government agencies seem dedicated to giving away freebies at the cost of taxpayers to any and all who can manage to find their way across the border?

Yes, the "open door" would be great if we were already a libertarian nation, but I would like to point out that any "open door" policy for

illegal immigrants is also an "open door" policy for terrorists. Is that what the Libertarian Party really wants? Liberals might accuse me of saying that Mexicans are terrorists, but it should be obvious to anyone that if a Mexican can walk across the border, so can members of al-Qaeda.

—KEVIN ROLFE
Jacksonville, Florida

A great nation?

[RE: Editor's Note, responding to Kurt Snyder's "Christian Exodus" letter in the March 2006 *LP News*.

I won't argue your point about "America being a great nation because of Americans."

I would, rather, refer you to Alexis de Toqueville's treatise on why America WAS great. If you are not familiar with it, I would implore you to obtain it and read his comments on this subject.

To the point: He said America was great because America was good

— and he was specific as to the reason this was so.

He also said America will be (or would be) great as long as America was good.

America is no longer good, nor is America any longer great, and the reason is because we are lacking that to which de Toqueville specifically accredited America's reason for being both good, and thus great.

I certainly didn't learn of de Toqueville's commentary in government schools, nor from the media.

—JOHN
[No address given]

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(Includes access to our opening and closing receptions, along with two breakfast buffets.)

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(Includes access to our opening reception only, along with two breakfast buffets and two working lunches.)

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UPCOMING

■ April 28-30, 2006

Indiana LP Convention, to be held at the Clarion Waterfront Resort in Indianapolis. Convention on Saturday will include workshops on proper land use, opposing eminent domain, and Indiana's Small Business Initiative. For details, call (317) 920-1994, e-mail lpinhq@lpin.org, or visit www.lpin.org.

■ April 28-30, 2006

South Carolina LP Convention, to be held at the Avista Resort in North Myrtle Beach. Convention on Saturday, April 29, followed by South Carolina's State Leadership Conference on Sunday, April 30. For details, call (843) 267-0045, e-mail chairman@sclibertarians.org, or visit www.sclibertarians.org.

■ April 29, 2006

Kansas LP Convention, to be held at the Shawnee Country Club in Topeka. Featured speaker: Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government. For details, go to www.lpks.org.

■ April 29, 2006

Vermont LP Convention, to be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, e-mail Scott Berkey at berkeyscott@hotmail.com, go to www.vtlp.org or call (802) 728-6211.

■ April 29, 2006

New York LP Convention, to be held at the Best Western in Albany, not far from the airport on Wolf Road. There will likely be an event on Friday night before the convention. Other details to be announced. For information, go to ny.lp.org/official/convention.

■ May 5-7, 2006

Ohio LP Convention, to be held at the Mohican state park and lodge. LP founder David Nolan will be the keynote speaker. For details, call Kevin Knedler at (740) 881-2566 or visit www.lpo.org.

■ May 5-7, 2006

North Carolina LP Convention, to be held at the Best Western Hotel in Burlington. The convention theme is "Independence Day: Every Day," emphasizing the actions people can take both in the LP and in their daily lives to expand individual liberties. For details, call Susan Hogarth at (919) 906-2106, e-mail convention@lpnc.org, or visit www.lpnc.org.

■ May 13, 2006

Michigan LP Convention, to be held at the Comfort Inn in Chelsea, Mich. A welcome party will be held on Friday night before the Saturday convention. For details when available, visit www.mi.lp.org, call Nathan Allen at (248) 891-3003, or e-mail chair@lpmich.org.

■ June 10, 2006

Texas LP Convention, location and specific schedule not yet determined. For more information when it becomes available, visit www.tx.lp.org.

■ July 1-2, 2006

2006 National Libertarian Party Convention, to be held at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower in Portland, Ore. Speakers to include former Congressman Bob Barr and BBC correspondent Andrew Neil. For more details, see the story on Page 1 of this issue of LP News. Visit www.LP.org often to keep up with plans for the 2006 convention.

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■ **PAGE 4** Alaska governor wants to bring back marijuana prohibition

FIRST WORD

Oregon columnist says Libertarian has the right idea

"Rob Pochert is in a better position than almost anyone to shape Beaverton's downtown of tomorrow. That worries Richard Burke. Pochert is from the government, and he is here to help.

"Burke is a Libertarian, and he is not convinced he needs any help.

"Topics [at a recent annual community meeting] were as diverse as home safety and annexations, but none generated as much discussion as talk of Beaverton's 'new downtown.'

"Pochert ... envisions a future of high-rise, high-occupancy buildings with thousands of residents feeding an urban economy.

"[Burke] is the leader of the Libertarian Party of Oregon, which generally considers less government to be better government. The group's state headquarters are in Beaverton's original downtown.

"Burke doesn't object to Beaverton's development, but he wants to be sure the people who invested in the city have a say in its future.

"[Beaverton] has an opportunity to change the face of downtown with a cultural and government centerpiece much like Hillsboro did with its Civic Center. Or it can sell the land to a developer much like it did at the nearby Round at Beaverton Central.

"Before that happens, Beaverton leaders should ask taxpayers if they want to invest in their own downtown, to take ownership of its future rather than turning it over to a developer."

— JERRY BOONE, *The Oregonian*, April 12, 2006