

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY® LP NEWS

The Party of Principle®



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## Aaron Russo announces campaign for president

*Former Hollywood producer promises high-visibility campaign*

**C**olorful former Hollywood producer and political provocateur Aaron Russo has jumped into the race for the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential nomination.

Russo, who rose to prominence in the 1970s and '80s when he produced such hit movies as *Trading Places* and *The Rose*, said he is running because he "can't stand what is happening to America."

"I believe we're heading to totalitarianism," he said. "The best thing I can do is try and get the word out to the public about what's happening to America, and give them an opportunity to try to change things."

Russo, 60, said in late December that he would seek the LP's nomination, after originally announcing that he would run as an independent candidate.

"I was originally planning to end up as a Libertarian anyway," he said about the switch.

Russo said he planned to campaign first as an independent to try to attract unaffiliated voters, Green



**■ Aaron Russo: "I believe I will be the highest-visibility presidential candidate we've ever had."**

Party members, Reform Party supporters, Republicans, and Democrats — and then "end up running as a Libertarian."

But, he said, "Too many Libertarians wanted to know that I was running as a Libertarian. The people in the LP sort of forced me to show my hand now, rather than later."

Russo has already qualified to appear in the non-binding Libertarian presidential primaries in California and Massachusetts, and said he will attend LP state conventions around the country to stump for support.

### 'Semi-celebrity'

If he wins the LP's presidential nomination, Russo said he will use his Hollywood connections, his "semi-celebrity" status, his high-octane speaking style, and his media savvy to attract attention.

"If I get the nomination, I believe I will be the highest-visibility presidential candidate we've ever had," he said. "I can bring more attention to the party than ever before. I think I have the ability to elevate the LP to another level."

His presidential campaign will have three goals, he said: To get into

See **RUSO** Page 2



**■ Clockwise from left: Littleton, Colorado Libertarians lobby for a grocery tax repeal; Oregon Libertarians celebrate the defeat of a \$725 million income tax increase; Washington, DC Libertarians protest the invasion of Iraq; Superior Court Judge James Gray announces his bid for U.S. Senate in California.**

## The top Libertarian news stories of '03

By **Bill Winter**  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**F**or the nation, 2003 was a year of big political stories: War, deficits, an improving economy, the California recall, and campaign finance "reform" that will restructure how American politics operates.

The same was true for the Libertarian Party. In fact, the LP played a role — sometimes significant, sometimes minor — in most of the important political news stories of the year.

The LP also created a few news stories of its own: Events that didn't necessarily make headlines in *USA Today*, but had significant repercussions for the party and for libertarians in general.

To help put 2003 into perspective, *LP News* has assembled a list of the "Top 10 Libertarian Stories of 2003" — the most important news stories of the year that directly involved the LP, individual Libertarians, or the broader libertarian movement.

Stories were ranked by *LP News* based on the national importance of each event; the degree of LP involvement; the amount of coverage each story received in *LP News*; the effect of each event on ordinary Americans; and its lasting impact on the libertarian movement and on the Libertarian Party. In other words, it's the news with a Libertarian twist.

Here are the Top 10 Libertarian Stories of 2003. We'll recap each story, and then explain why it was important, counting down in reverse order from #10 to #1:

**10. The number of people who took the online version of the World's Smallest Political Quiz passes 2 million.** (August 2003)

Recap: On August 31, the number of cybersurfers who have taken

See **TOP 10** Page 16

## The rules of politics revealed

By **Bill Winter**  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**B**ill Clinton had 'em, and he used to brag about them in speeches.

Otto von Bismarck had 'em, and he used them to build the modern nation of Germany.

Lyndon Johnson had 'em, and they were usually vulgar.

We're talking about Rules of Politics. That is, fundamental truisms about politics, campaigns, and government.

Since most Libertarians are not professional politicians, many are unaware of the broad body of accumulated wisdom about how politics works. So, we scoured books, newspapers, magazines, and the Internet

**Find your message and stay on it.**

**SUZI PARKER**

**Get elected. Get re-elected.**

**EVERETT DIRKSEN**

to collect these "78 Rules of Politics." (Why 78? Because that's how many we could fit into this issue.)

They come from a wide variety of sources: Politicians (some famous, some not). Political science professors. Journalists. Political organizations. Publications. Political activists. Campaign consultants. Some are from that prolific phrase-maker, "Un-

known" (a friend of "Anonymous").

Some of these Rules of Politics are advice about how to win elections, or how to govern. Some are general truths about how real-world politics operates.

Some are so broad they could be considered Rules of Life. Some are narrowly tailored to address specific campaign challenges.

Since they come from a wide cross-section of opinionated experts, some even contradict each other. That's fine. Borrow from the ones that make the most sense to you.

A word of warning: Libertarians did not write these rules. Some are so cynical you'll be offended.

On the other hand, some are so commonsense you'll wonder why any-

See **RULES** Page 12



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Arizona LP wins open-primary lawsuit

Arizona Libertarians have the right to select their own party leaders, an appeals court has ruled in a decision that will shake up how the state's open primary is conducted.

In a December 8 ruling, the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said that allowing state residents to vote for other political parties' precinct committeemen is unconstitutional.

"Allowing nonmembers to vote for party precinct committeemen violates the Libertarian Party's associational rights," the San Francisco, California-based three-judge panel wrote in its decision.

Arizona LP lawyer David T. Hardy told the *Arizona Daily Star* that the ruling is "a win for the Libertarian Party and for the First Amendment."

The ruling will affect the state's September 7, 2004 primaries for state and county offices.

Because the Arizona primary process is "open," independent and unaffiliated voters were able to cast votes for Libertarian precinct committeemen — meaning that non-Libertarians were able to select the party's leadership. Among other duties, precinct committeemen have the power to choose replacement candidates for candidates who die or resign before an election.

Arizona Libertarians had argued that they should be able to select precinct committeemen at convention, and that taxpayers should not be forced to pay for the cost of a Libertarian primary.

The ruling means that state officials will need to print a separate primary ballot — available only to registered Libertarians — that lists the Libertarian precinct committeeman candidates.

The court also instructed U.S. District Judge Raner Collins to decide the separate question of whether independent and unaffiliated voters should be allowed to vote for Libertarian candidates in the primary.

### New Robert Heinlein novel is published

Robert Heinlein, long considered one of America's most libertarian science-fiction writers, has published a new novel — 16 years after his death. Even more interesting, it's the first novel he ever wrote.

The book, *For Us, The Living: A Comedy of Customs*, was published in hardback by Scribner in January 2004 (288 pages, \$25.00).

It's the long-lost first novel written by Heinlein two years before his first short-story was accepted for publication.

The novel is about a man who dies in a car crash in 1939 and awakens in 2086. He spends the novel learning about the future, and, according to Amazon.com, getting "lectures about economic systems, rockets, U.S. history, religion, and more."

Early reviews of the book say it is clearly the work of a first-time novelist, but that it contains libertarian themes and scientific speculations that would appear in Heinlein's later, more polished works such as *Beyond this Horizon*, and "The Roads Must Roll."

Heinlein has long been popular among libertarian readers. In 2003, he was named one of *Reason* magazine's "35 Heroes of Liberty," and in a September 1999 article in *LP News*, Laissez Faire Books' editor Jim Powell named Heinlein's 1966 novel, *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, one of the 20 best introductory libertarian books.

### LP member offers anti-Neal Boortz petition

An LP member has launched an online petition to try to convince the Libertarian National Committee to cancel a scheduled speech by radio talk show host Neal Boortz at the party's 2004 national convention.

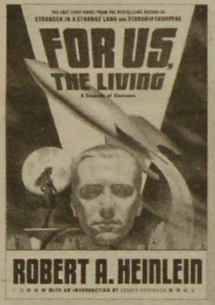
The petition — at [www.petitiononline.com/noboortz/petition.html](http://www.petitiononline.com/noboortz/petition.html) — had garnered 656 signatures by January 11. That's evidence that a significant number of LP members are troubled by Boortz's appearance, said Missouri Libertarian Tom Knapp, the coordinator of Libertarians for a Boortz-Free National Convention.

"This is not a matter of party purity," he said. "It's a matter of pragmatic politics. Having Neal Boortz speak at the LP's national convention would be like the Republicans featuring Al Franken or the Democrats featuring Rush Limbaugh at their national conventions."

Boortz, who broadcasts out of Atlanta, Georgia, is syndicated on about 140 stations around the USA. He joined the LP in 1996.

The petition argues that Boortz's "opinions on foreign policy, especially with respect to the U.S. invasion and occupation of Iraq, diverge wildly from the Libertarian Party's positions. It is not in the best interests of the party to facilitate public misidentification of its positions on foreign policy with Mr. Boortz's divergent views."

Knapp said the petition will stay online until at least May 26, the day before the LP National Convention is gavelled to order.



# Aaron Russo launches bid for LP's presidential nomination

Continued from Page 1

the presidential debates, to win the presidency, and to "enlighten people in America what freedom really is."

To qualify for the debates, Russo said he knows he needs to be at 15% in the polls — which he said is "doable."

"The most important thing is to get in the debate," he said. "I intend to make the debate. If I get in the debate, I can win. It's a long shot, obviously, but I could win."

Russo also said his website — [www.russoforpresident.com](http://www.russoforpresident.com) — has a petition to stop any proposed military draft. He's promoting the petition with 25 million video e-mails, which he said should increase traffic to the site.

When people visit the website, they are asked "to join the LP and support my campaign for president," he said. "I want to bring people to the party who have never been there before."

#### Patriot Act

When talking to voters, Russo said he tells them that as president, "I will bring our troops home from every corner of the globe. I'll revoke the Patriot Act. I'll cut taxes, cut spending. I'll cut the size of government. I'll stop corporate welfare."

"I'll engage all nations in trade and commerce. I'll protect our air and water, and I'll protect our borders, but most importantly, I will protect our Constitution and Bill of Rights. If you continue to vote for one of the two major parties, nothing will change, and you're wasting your vote."

Looking at the big picture, said Russo, "My campaign is not about any single issue; it's about government's proper role in your life. I have a sincere belief [in] the Constitution and Bill of Rights as envisioned by Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and Ben Franklin."

"Unfortunately, neither political party respects the vision of our founding fathers, and these documents have been relegated to the dustbin. I want to dust them off and restore them to their proper role in

## RUSSO'S POINTS

Aaron Russo's "Points every American should be alarmed about..."

1. Both political parties lie to us, and neither can be trusted.

2. Our economy is a disaster.

3. We're losing our right to free speech.

4. Both parties passed the Patriot Act, a crime against all Americans.

5. Both wage war against medical marijuana and alternative medicine.

6. Both attack our right to bear arms.

7. Both parties overtax, overspend, and over-regulate.

8. Both parties station our troops around the world rather than protecting our borders from terrorism and illegal immigration.

9. Both parties are guilty of starting the war in Iraq.

10. Both parties are equally guilty for America's youth dying there for no reason.

our lives. That is why I am running for president."

Russo has run for public office once before: In 1998, he challenged Republican Kenny Guinn for the GOP gubernatorial nomination in Nevada, garnering 25.9% of the primary vote in a four-way race. (Guinn later won the general election.)

In 1999, Russo became a member of the Libertarian Party, saying it was his "true political home." In 2000, he delivered a fiery speech at the Libertarian National Convention, calling Libertarians the "last, best hope for freedom in America."

In 2002, Russo almost ran for governor in Nevada as a Libertarian. However, three months after announcing his intention to run, Russo pulled out of the race after being diagnosed with

malignant bladder cancer. He underwent surgery and was declared cancer-free later that year.

Before entering politics, Russo was a major force in the movie business. He produced such box office hits as *Trading Places* (1983) and *The Rose* (1979), and, at one time, commanded a \$1 million-a-picture producing fee.

His movies received six Academy Award nominations and two Golden Globe nominations. He also won an honorary Tony Award for a Broadway musical review.

Russo was also the manager of Bette Midler, guiding "The Divine Miss M" to platinum album stardom and a successful film career.

Upon leaving Hollywood, Russo created and attempted to syndicate a one-hour politically themed television program entitled *Aaron Russo's Mad As Hell*.

The show — part stand-up comedy monologue, part high-energy political rant — presented a libertarian look at such topics as Social Security, NAFTA, the federal budget, and the IRS.

#### Face off

In the race for the LP's presidential nomination, Russo will face off against Gary Nolan, a former syndicated radio talk show host, and Michael Badnarik, a Texas resident who offers classes on the U.S. Constitution. Both are running active campaigns around the USA.

Other announced candidates for the nomination include Louisiana musician Jeffrey Diket, Texas maintenance man Ruden Perez, and past California LP candidate for U.S. House, David Hollist.

The party's 2004 presidential and vice presidential candidates will be selected by delegates at the Libertarian National Convention, which will be held May 27-31, 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia.

For information about the Russo for President campaign, visit: [www.russoforpresident.com](http://www.russoforpresident.com). Or write: Russo for President, Box 48066, Los Angeles, CA 90048. Or e-mail: [russoforpresident@comcast.net](mailto:russoforpresident@comcast.net).

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Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

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



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# LNC sets \$1.7 million budget for 2004

*Budget anticipates 24% increase in revenue from membership growth and '04 Convention*

The Libertarian National Committee has approved a \$1.7 million budget for the party for 2004.

That budget — a 24% increase from 2003 — takes into account an expected increase in members, the party's National Convention, and the fact that 2004 is a presidential election year, said LP national Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"We have budgeted for expenses for prospecting this year, and anticipate that this election year will bring us more members and money, as historical patterns generally tend to indicate," he said.

"And let's not forget one very important fact — we're running a convention in 2004, and all of those revenues and expenses are reflected in the budget. That's about \$150,000 of the total revenue increase right there."

## St. Louis, Missouri

The budget was approved at the LNC's meeting in St. Louis, Missouri on December 13-14, 2003. It passed on a 12-4 vote.

Voting for it were Vice Chair Ken Bisson (Indiana), Mark Cenci (Maine), Fred Childress (Virginia), Mike Dixon (North Carolina), Austin Hough (Illinois), Sean Haugh (North Carolina), Ed Hoch (Alaska), Mark Nelson (Iowa), Mark Rutherford (Indiana), BetteRose Ryan (South Dakota), George Squyres (Arizona), and Steve Trinward (Tennessee).

Voting against it were Secretary Steve Givot (Colorado), Joe Dehn

(California), Treasurer Bill Redpath (Virginia), and R. Lee Wrights (North Carolina).

The budget projects \$1,783,750 in both revenue and expenses, and assumes the party will grow to 24,000 members by the end of the year. Current membership stands at just under 20,000. It also assumes that the average member will contribute \$70 during the year. The average contribution in 2003 was about \$65.

Neale said the budget is an outgrowth of 2003's "Get Real" budget, and incorporates lessons learned from the party's two-year struggle with finances.

## A moderation

"This increase in revenues should realistically be viewed as a moderation of the prior year's 'bare bones' budget," he said. "However, part of the reason the budget is going up is that we recognize we cut right to the bone last year, in order to turn around our financial situation."

"It is absolutely essential that we spend a reasonable amount in upgrading our support systems to allow us to grow while maintaining low costs." Neale said the philosophy behind the budget was the same as last year: "Realistically project income based upon past giving patterns and membership patterns, and make sure the expenses do not exceed that number."

The budget also reflects his number one priority as national Chair, said Neale: Financial health.

## LNC acts on Boortz, Strategy 14

At its December 13-14, 2003 meeting in St. Louis, Missouri, the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. also:

■ Passed a motion supporting the Convention Committee's decision to invite talk show host Neal Boortz to the 2004 National Convention, and welcoming Boortz's efforts "to further the freedom movement in whatever way" he chooses. The motion, introduced by Mark Nelson (Region 8 Representative, Iowa), passed on a 9-6 vote with 2 abstentions.

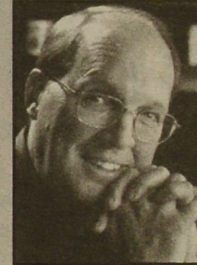
■ Approved on a 10-7 vote a motion to reinstate Strategy 14 in the LP's ongoing Strategic Plan. Strategy 14, which had been dropped by the LNC at its March 2003 meeting, called for the party to "develop and implement a program of ideological internal education." The motion was a substitute motion, introduced by Mike Dixon (At Large Representative, North Carolina).

■ Passed a motion declaring that the American Liberty Foundation (ALF) is now in compliance with previous LNC resolutions. The motion, introduced by Mark Cenci (Region 6 Representative, Maine), passed on a 14-3 vote.

■ Approved a motion praising outgoing LP News editor Bill Winter for "delivering a high quality product in both design and content." The measure, which expressed the LNC's "undying gratitude on behalf of the Libertarian Party" to Winter for his service as editor, passed on a voice vote, with only Joe Dehn (Region 2 Representative, California) abstaining.

■ Declined to pass a motion to remove At-Large Representative Don Gorman (New Hampshire) from the LNC for missing three meetings in 2003.

■ Confirmed the date and location of the next LNC meeting: February 21-22, in Austin, Texas.



■ Neal Boortz: At Convention.

\$562,500 from membership renewals; \$562,500 from contributions; \$450,000 from the Pledge Program; \$135,000 from the convention; \$33,750 for advertising in LP News; and \$40,000 from other sources.

## Core functions

The most significant budget expenses for the party's "core functions" for 2004 include:

- \$318,000 for Unified Membership Plan (UMP) payments to state affiliates (17.9% of total expenses).
- \$437,000 for national office staff salaries (24.6%).
- \$17,000 for LNC costs. (1%).
- \$99,910 for national office rent and utilities (5.6%).
- \$96,000 for a new membership database and training (5.4%).
- \$84,000 for LP News printing and mailing (4.7%).
- \$35,000 for media relations (2.0%).
- \$114,000 for direct-mail and pledge fundraising costs (6.4%).
- \$112,500 for membership renewal mailing and processing (6.3%).
- \$115,000 for the 2004 National Convention (6.5%). This number may change as convention plans move forward.
- \$40,000 for printing and distribution of outreach materials (2.2%).
- \$17,838 for the party's contingency fund (1.0%).
- \$56,252 as a surplus (3.1%).

In addition, ballot access, candidate support, campus outreach, and LP branding have been again categorized as "special projects." Up to \$400,000 will be spent in those areas only if it can be raised from Libertarian Party members.

## Geoffrey Neale won't run again for National Chair

In a decision that guarantees a wide-open race at the 2004 National Convention, Geoffrey Neale has announced that he will not seek re-election as LP national Chair.

Neale made the announcement in his "From the Chair" column in the January 2004 issue of LP News. In it, he said "my reasons are my own" for not running again.

However, Neale acknowledged that the burdens of trying to manage the party during a time of serious financial difficulties played a major role in his decision to step down.

## Refresh and recover

"The worries of the LP have been heavy on my mind for this term," he said. "I need time to refresh and recover, both emotionally and fiscally."

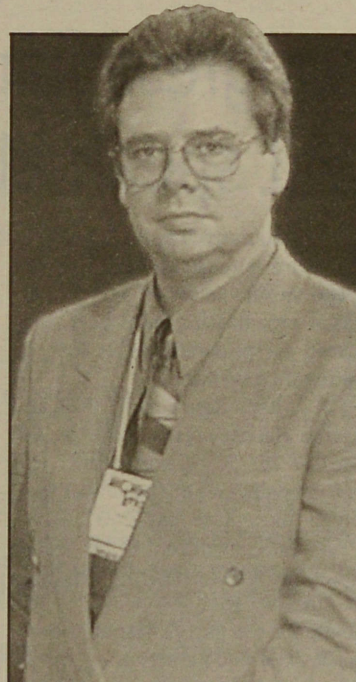
Neale also said the difficulty of serving as the party's executive director — a role he assumed from the time Steve Dasbach resigned in November 2002 until Joe Seehusen was appointed in May 2003 — was also a factor.

"This led to more demands on my time than is normal with the duties of Chair," he said. "If I was independently wealthy, and retired, and single, it would have been an overwhelming burden. Since I'm neither wealthy, nor retired, and have a family to boot, the costs to me on a personal and financial level have been extreme."

Since he has several more months left to serve in office, Neale said he will refrain from pointing to any one "greatest accomplishment" as Chair. "I still have four more months to move things forward, and I plan on doing just that," he said. "I hope my most significant achievements have not yet been realized."

His biggest disappointment as Chair, said Neale, was realizing the true extent of the party's dire financial situation over the past two years — which prevented the LP from achieving more.

"I have had virtually no opportunity to do much of what I wanted to



■ Geoff Neale: "I hope my most significant achievements have not yet been realized."

See NEALE Page 21

## Ohio LP files lawsuit over rejected petitions

The Ohio LP has filed a lawsuit against the Ohio secretary of state, charging that he acted unconstitutionally when he rejected more than 57,000 ballot access petitions submitted by Libertarians.

The lawsuit, filed January 6 in U.S. District Court in Columbus, says that Secretary of State Ken Blackwell violated the First and Fourteenth amendment rights of Ohio Libertarians and voters.

"It comes down to plain old dirty politics," said Ohio LP State Chair Jason Hallmark. "Blackwell and the rest of the Columbus establishment are going to do whatever they possibly can to keep out competing political parties."

Blackwell had invalidated 57,150 Libertarian ballot access petitions on November 24, saying they violated state election regulations.

Blackwell said the petition forms were illegal because a space had been

**THE OHIO**  
**Secretary of State**  
**used "plain old dirty**  
**politics" to "keep**  
**out competing**  
**political parties."**  
**—Jason Hallmark**

added for signers to print their last names, and because a sentence about the legal penalty for falsification was slightly incorrect. The law specifying the legal penalty had been changed during the LP's petition drive.

Because of this, the forms were not "as prescribed by the Secretary

See OHIO Page 13



## POLITICAL NEWS

### Scott Jameson announces VP campaign

Scott Jameson, a past LP candidate for U.S. Senate from Texas, has announced that he is seeking the Libertarian Party's nomination for vice president.

"My vision of leadership from the vice presidential role is based on the LP Platform and the U.S. Constitution," he said. "Primarily, the vice president should be physically present and active in providing real leadership for the order of the daily routine on the floor of the U.S. Senate. If elected, I would be at every session."

If he is nominated, Jameson, 37, said he will "focus on doing the actions required to run a real and successful political campaign in modern America."

That includes making fund-raising calls, creating a "sophisticated website," and interacting with "key national news media."

Politically, his VP campaign will focus on eliminating the income tax, "actually serving as the active presiding officer of the U.S. Senate for all sessions," and advocating a Constitutional amendment to guarantee a minimum public review period before bills are filed in the U.S. Congress.

In 2002, Jameson ran as the LP candidate for U.S. Senate in Texas, winning 1% of the vote.

Jameson is a director of information technology at the University of Texas in Dallas. A resident of Plano, he is married with no children.

Other announced VP candidates include Tamara Millay from Missouri and Richard Campagna from Iowa.

For information about the Jameson for VP campaign, visit: [www.ScottJameson.org](http://www.ScottJameson.org). E-mail: [scott@scottjameson.org](mailto:scott@scottjameson.org). Call: (972) 633-1991. Write: 2024 Westridge Drive, Plano, Texas 75075.

### Richard Rider writes anti-Prop 58 argument

Longtime California LP activist Richard Rider has helped write and will co-sign the ballot argument against Proposition 58.

The proposition, a constitutional amendment that is supported by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, will appear on the state's March 2 primary ballot.

If approved by voters, the measure will require the state legislature to pass a balanced budget, set aside an up-to-5% emergency reserve, and prohibit the purchase of bonds to balance the budget.

Schwarzenegger said Prop. 58 — which is named the "Balanced Budget Act" — will help solve the state's fiscal crisis.

Prop. 58 is linked to Prop. 57, which will allow the state to borrow \$15 billion in bonds to finance California's current budget deficit.

However, Rider said Prop. 58 "is a sham bill that does not balance spending with revenues, and does nothing about the runaway spending problem plaguing our state."

In the ballot argument summary, Rider wrote: "With the \$15 billion bonds, we were supposed to get a strong spending limitation measure. But Prop. 58 does not limit spending! It allows short-term borrowing to balance the budget, the budget reserve is largely unprotected, and the door is wide open for massive spending increases and higher taxes."

Rider noted that Prop. 58 doesn't prohibit short-term borrowing (other than bonds) and doesn't set any spending limits. He also said the state already has a reserve policy that legislators simply ignore.

The anti-Prop. 58 ballot argument is co-signed by representatives of the Association of Concerned Taxpayers and the Santa Barbara County Taxpayers Association.

### December presidential straw poll: It's a tie

The nation's most popular online Libertarian presidential straw poll ended 2003 with its first-ever tie vote.

In the December survey, the two leading contenders, past candidate for the Texas legislature Michael Badnarik and former syndicated radio talk show host Gary Nolan, each received 262 votes.

The unscientific poll — at <http://cass.molp.org/polls.htm> — is conducted by the Cass County LP of Missouri. It offers libertarians an opportunity each month to vote for their favorite candidate for the LP's presidential nomination. Badnarik had won the previous two month's polls; Nolan had won for six months before that.

However, the December poll had a new wrinkle: It was the first to measure whether respondents were planning to attend the LP's 2004 National Convention. At the convention, LP delegates will select the party's presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Of those who said they would definitely attend the convention, Nolan beat Badnarik 70 to 68. Of those who said they might attend, Badnarik beat Nolan 62 to 60. And of those who said they were not planning to attend, 132 voted for Nolan and 132 voted for Badnarik.



■ **Scott Jameson:** "Every session."

# Bob DeBrosse is appointed as Ohio's first Libertarian mayor

Ohio has its first Libertarian mayor.

Bob DeBrosse, who has served more than 10 years on the Piqua city commission, was sworn in as mayor on January 5.

The longtime LP member was elected to that position by the five-member, non-partisan city commission, and said he will work to make Piqua better for its residents.

"I want to do the best job I possibly can," he told the *Troy Daily News*. "I'd like to draw my last breath knowing that I made the world — at least my little corner of it — a better place."

Even though he is the only Libertarian on the city commission, DeBrosse said he has been able to work effectively with his fellow commissioners, and expects to continue to do so as mayor.

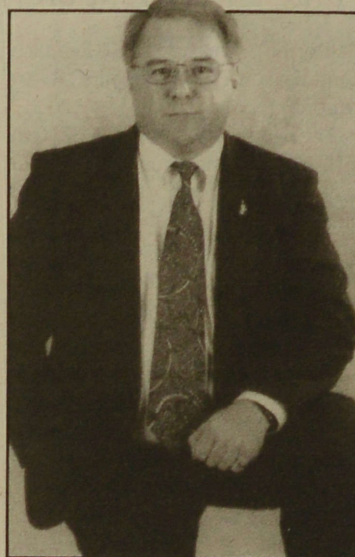
#### 'We can disagree...'

"We may all have different visions, but we all want to make Piqua a better place," he said. "We can disagree without being disagreeable."

While there are at least 10 Libertarians serving in public office in Ohio — including five city council members — LP State Chair Jason M. Hallmark said DeBrosse is the party's only mayor.

Ohio LP Vice Chair Dena Bruedigam told the *Troy Daily News* that Libertarians were very proud of DeBrosse.

"He's a good, honest person that



■ **Piqua, Ohio's new mayor, Bob DeBrosse:** "We may all have different visions, but we all want to make Piqua a better place."

people trust," she said. "He's been on the city [commission] a long time. He also supports the Libertarian view of keeping government small. We're very excited about Bob DeBrosse being elected mayor."

DeBrosse, who has lived in Piqua for 41 years, said one of his major goals as mayor will be to attract manufacturing jobs to the town.

"A lot of our problems relate to low incomes," he told the *Troy Daily News*. "Overall, the focus needs to be on jobs that pay a higher wage generally than what you find in the re-

tail and service sector."

While he said he doesn't agree with the "party line" 100% of the time, DeBrosse said he has won a number of Libertarian victories during his three terms on the city commission.

For example, since he has been in office, there have been no tax increases. Even in 1998, when the city manager proposed raising taxes to finance a new city hall, DeBrosse was able to defer the decision until the building could be financed with existing city revenue.

He said he also spearheaded an ordinance that allowed individuals to do their own electrical work without a licensed electrician, and helped defeat a plan for a "downtown design review board."

#### Shape debate

"One Libertarian on a board can be successful in shaping the terms of debate and discouraging fellow members from pursuing anti-liberty objectives," he said. "There are a lot of ordinances that don't even get proposed because I'm on the board."

"There's no doubt in my mind that if I wasn't there, Piqua would be a less libertarian place to live."

DeBrosse, 50, was first elected to the Piqua city commission in 1993, and was re-elected in 1997 and 2001. He is a past vice chair of the Ohio LP.

Piqua, located about 90 miles west of Columbus, has a population of just under 21,000.

# Congressman Ron Paul, Sharon Harris will speak at '04 National Convention

Libertarians' favorite Republican and the president of the nation's "most effective" libertarian organization have been confirmed as speakers for the 2004 LP National Convention.

U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) and Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government, will address delegates at the convention, which takes place May 27-31, 2004.

At the convention, to be held at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel in Georgia, up to 1,400 delegates will nominate the party's standard-bearers for the 2004 election — the LP presidential and vice presidential candidates.

Delegates will also debate changes to the LP Platform, vote on proposed Bylaws modifications, elect a new National Chair, and choose new Libertarian National Committee (LNC) members.

Highlighting the speaker list is:

■ **Ron Paul:** He was named one of the "10 Gadflies Washington Could



■ **U.S. House Rep. Ron Paul, nicknamed "Dr. No," will speak at the 2004 National Convention.**

Not Do Without" by *Insight* magazine in 2002.

Known as "Dr. No" for his refusal



to vote for anything not authorized by the U.S. Constitution, Paul was first elected to the U.S. House in 1978. He served until 1986, when he returned to his medical practice in Surfside, Texas.

Paul resigned from the GOP in 1987, saying, "There is no credibility left for the Republican Party as a force to reduce the size of government."

In 1988, Paul won the LP presidential nomination, and appeared on the ballot in 46 states. He garnered over 430,000 votes.

Paul remained outside of politics for 10 years, before stunning the Republican Party establishment by winning a primary election for his old

See **CONVENTION** Page 11



# 2004 Health & Freedom Rally

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March 13-14, Irvine, California

**Is The New  
World Order Here?**



**Hutton Gibson**

Our BANQUET speaker, Father of Actor Mel Gibson, appeared on Alex Jones' radio program and will speak out against the New World Order and the loss of our Constitutionally protected rights.

**Peacefully stop  
unconstitutional  
Government actions  
NOW!**



**Bob Schulz**

Chairman of We the People Congress & Foundation will share his organizations' latest efforts in exposing and eradicating unconstitutional government behavior.

**Ex-IRS agent  
exposes IRS fraud!**



**Joe Banister**

Former gun carrying IRS Special Agent Criminal Investigator, will share why he quit his \$80,000 per year job and defected to the Freedom Movement, when the IRS failed to convince him that filing and paying Income Tax is mandatory.

**Is The Major  
Media Controlled?**



**Willis Carto**

Writer for the American Free Press, will share how the major media of the United States became owned and controlled by the super-rich bankers and corporations that feed us controlled "news"!

**Pilot Beats The  
IRS in Court**



**Vernie Kuglan**

The FEDEX pilot who WON her criminal case against the IRS, because the IRS wouldn't answer her simple questions. She will share the details of her "David" v. "Goliath" story.

**How to no longer  
fear the IRS!**



**Peymon Mottahedeh**

President of Freedom Law School, a naturalized American citizen from Iran of Jewish descent, will share how you can free yourself of tyranny & become financially independent & prosperous.

As Well as 5 other engaging speakers, see [www.livefreenow.org](http://www.livefreenow.org) for complete list.

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## TALKING POINTS

# Solving the Spam problem, and Washington's new pork gluttons

### ■ Private schooling

Among the population at large, about 10% send their children to private schools. In the Senate, 46% of Republicans and 52% of Democrats send their kids to private school.

— **MONA CHAREN**, TownHall.com  
January 2, 2004

### ■ Pork gluttons

Republicans have become pork gluttons. The insider's term for pork is "earmark." Lawmakers earmark money in appropriations bills for specific uses.

And what are you getting for your hard-earned tax dollars?

Senator Charles Grassley, an Iowa Republican and self-proclaimed clean government crusader, snagged \$50 million for an indoor rain forest [in Coralville, Iowa].

There's the \$3 million targeting golf education for kids.

There's \$225,000 for a Blue-Gray Civil War Theme Park in Kentucky, and another \$225,000 to fix a swimming pool in Sparks, Nevada.

According to House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, lawmakers have been bestowed a "fundamental right" to earmark taxpayer money.

"We don't have to wait around for some bureaucrat to decide whether it's important or not. I'm not ashamed of the fact that there are earmarks in this bill," he said.

— **DICK MEYER**, CBSNews.com  
December 11, 2003

### ■ Pentagon prices

The Pentagon says that Dick Cheney's old company Halliburton has been overcharging the government in its "no bid" contract in Iraq. Boy, how bad are you overcharging when the Pentagon notices?

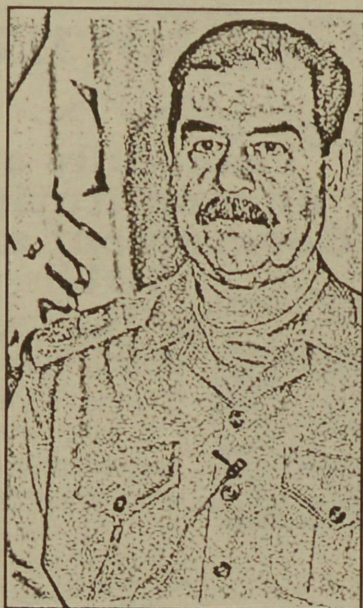
— **JAY LENO**, *The Tonight Show*  
December 12, 2003

### ■ In perpetuity

Just how bad is the recently passed Medicare reform bill? At the risk of ruining your day, allow me to draw your attention to some fairly depressing new research from the National Center for Policy Analysis (NCPA):

Even without the bill, we have made promises we can never keep. Estimates of the present value of the unfunded liability of elderly entitlement programs range from a low of \$44 trillion by the American Enterprise Institute to a high of \$60 trillion by The Brookings Institution. That's trillion, not billion.

How much will a drug benefit increase our future obligations? Former U.S. Treasury economists Jagadeesh Gokhale and Kent Smetters estimate the present value of the Senate bill



**EVERYONE IS  
better off with  
Saddam Hussein out  
of power. But he  
apparently had no  
WMD, and was no  
threat to the U.S.**

(in perpetuity) at \$12 trillion, greater than the unfunded liability in Social Security.

— **JOHN C. GOODMAN**  
*Health Care News*  
January 1, 2004

### ■ Growth industry

Number of new government jobs created since 2000: 721,000

— **HARPER'S MAGAZINE**  
December 2003

### ■ Curing spam

Now is the winter of our Internet discontent: The blight of spam, annoying pop-up ads and disturbing privacy invasions. The avalanche of consumer complaints has spurred the government to respond.

All of these Internet problems, however, can be solved without government interference by letting the Web evolve as it always has: naturally.

[For example], on the spam front, a recent report from Internet analysts NetsEdge Research predicts that the problem will be solved within six months by a potent combination of technical improvements and user involvement.

Here's how: Major Internet service providers and e-mail hosts will intro-

duce address-verification technology that will cut off most spam long before it gets to your mailbox. Meanwhile, reputation systems will help users decide which legitimate marketers they want to hear from.

The Internet community has proved itself more than capable of solving its own problems. Like any working marketplace, it acts at the right time: when problems such as spam and pop-ups cease being mere annoyances and begin to cost everybody real money in lost productivity.

For those two issues, that time is now, and the market is indeed responding with effective and efficient solutions.

— **LARRY DOWNES**, *USA Today*  
January 7, 2004

### ■ Fearing the USA

A recent Gallup poll found that 55% of citizens in Britain thought the United States "posed a threat to peace," while a BBC survey found that 60% of Indonesians, 71% of Jordanians, and even 25% of Canadians viewed the United States as a greater threat than al Qaeda.

— **SAMANTHA POWER**  
*N.Y. Times Book Review*  
January 4, 2004

### ■ Exaggerated threat

Bush administration officials exaggerated the threats from Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and failed to uncover any links between President Saddam Hussein and Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, a private nonpartisan research organization concluded in a report released [January 8].

The study by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace states that "administration officials systematically misrepresented the threat from Iraq's WMD and ballistic missile program" by treating possibilities as fact and "misrepresenting inspectors' findings in ways that turned threats from minor to dire."

The researchers who produced the report charged that US officials politicized intelligence to fit their arguments for a war to oust Hussein.

"We believe that in 2002, the intelligence process began to be politicized," Carnegie's president, Jessica T. Mathews, said. "This is an old story [in government]. This just happens to be an egregious case with extreme consequences, namely going to war."

— **FARAH STOCKMAN**, *Boston Globe*  
January 9, 2004

### ■ Wal-Mart power

I am not a Wal-Mart shopper. But I think the massive retail company is getting a bad rap.

We are supposed to hate Wal-Mart

because the company is huge, non-union, pays low wages, and squeezes suppliers until they scream.

But when I look at Wal-Mart I don't see a monster. I see the world's most efficient consumer-empowerment machine. Through the magic of free markets and free will, Wal-Mart does on our behalf what each of us would do on our own if we could: get the best deal on the merchandise we buy every day.

When we fix our car, hire a plumber or paint our house, we look for the best deal we can get, which we usually define as the lowest price for the quality we want.

What Wal-Mart does is take millions of consumers, bring them together, and use their collective bargaining power to get the best price on the quality they demand.

— **DANIEL WEINTRAUB**  
*The Sacramento Bee*  
December 30, 2003

### ■ Not safer

"The capture of Saddam Hussein has not made America safer," declared Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean, and denunciations have rained down upon him. But Dean obviously was correct: "The capture of Saddam does not end" the coalition's difficulties in Iraq.

Hussein's capture is good news for the Iraqis. But his seizure has not made the world safer.

Hussein was ousted as Iraq's president months ago. The pitiful thug hiding in a small, underground chamber had no ability to threaten anyone. Moreover, Hussein's arrest highlights the fact that he doesn't appear to have ever threatened America's security. He apparently never possessed the kind of weapons that would have endangered the U.S.

Embarrassed by the failure to find any weapons of mass destruction, the Bush administration attempted to change topics. Officials emphasize that Hussein is a bad guy — true, along with North Korea's Kim Jong Il, Iran's passel of mullahs, and quite a few other dictators around the world.

But before the war, U.S. President George W. Bush said "the threat from Iraq stands alone," since that nation's "weapons of mass destruction are controlled by a murderous tyrant."

[Now.] Bush has taken a different tack. When pressed by ABC TV's Diane Sawyer on the issue, Bush responded that there was a "possibility" Hussein could acquire them. "So what's the difference?" asked Bush.

Well, any number of governments could do any number of bad things. That doesn't mean that you have to bomb them today.

Everyone is better off with Hussein out of power. But he apparently had no WMD, and thus was no threat to the U.S. or other allied states.

— **DOUG BANDOW**, *The Japan Times*  
December 28, 2003

### ■ Secondhand lies

Smokefree DC, the activist group backing [a ban on smoking in Washington, DC], claims environmental tobacco smoke kills up to 65,000 Americans a year — more than three times the national murder rate.

The epidemiological evidence

doesn't come close to justifying [this] outlandish claim. It's far from clear that passive inhalation of second-hand smoke poses any significantly increased health risk at all. The Environmental Protection Agency's attempt to show it does was thrown out of court as junk science by a federal district court judge in 1998.

A study released last May in the British Medical Journal used American Cancer Society data tracking 35,561 Californians over 39 years, and concluded, "The results do not support a causal relation between environmental tobacco smoke and tobacco-related mortality."

Secondhand smoke is, at worst, a minuscule health risk that is easily avoided.

— **GENE HEALY**  
*The Washington Times*  
December 10, 2003

### ■ The world is flat

As Thomas Huxley concluded a lecture on Darwin, he was immediately accosted by a little, old lady who challenged him to refute her conviction that the world, which was flat, rested on the back of a turtle.

Before Huxley had a chance to respond, the lady concluded: "I know what you are going to ask, Mr. Hux-

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

— AYN RAND —

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

Or e-mail him at: [wredpath@his.com](mailto:wredpath@his.com).





ley, and the answer is 'turtles all the way down.'

In commemoration of those remarks, I announce forthwith the reconstitution of the Flat Earth Society. This is the credo of the society:

■ We are winning the war in Iraq.

■ We are winning the war in Afghanistan.

■ Bush went to war because Saddam Hussein had WMDs he could use against us within 48 hours.

■ John Ashcroft is fully committed to preserving the civil liberties of all Americans.

■ And the earth is flat.

— RICHARD CUMMINGS

www.LewRockwell.com

December 6, 2003

## ■ The fear alert

One of the few roles for government on which most people of varying political stripes can agree is the defense of citizens — including protection from terrorist attacks. So why is the U.S. government aiding the terrorists in terrorizing Americans?

For the holiday season, the U.S. government raised the threat level in the nationwide five color-coded alert system to orange (meaning "high") from yellow (meaning "elevated").

News of that change, beamed around the country, made many Americans jumpy. But that outcome is the very goal of the terrorists.

Terrorists terrorize the population by killing a few people — or in the case of the September 11 attacks, more than a few — and making the rest fearful. A government should do everything possible to prevent that outcome, but the U.S. government's alert system does the opposite.

The country would be both safer and less fearful with a more low-key alert system, targeted to state and local agencies that specific intelligence shows to be under threat at a particular time.

Instead, we have a high profile, nationwide threat index that draws a bull's eye on America, helps the terrorists achieve their goal of inducing fear, and creates the *illusion* that the government is protecting us.

— IVAN ELAND

The Independent Institute

December 31, 2003

## ■ A planned society

Our choice is not between a planned or unplanned society. It is between one planned by the government — which, paradoxically, yields social disorder — and one planned by the coordinated actions of millions of individuals, families, businesses, and social institutions such as houses of worship and civil institutions.

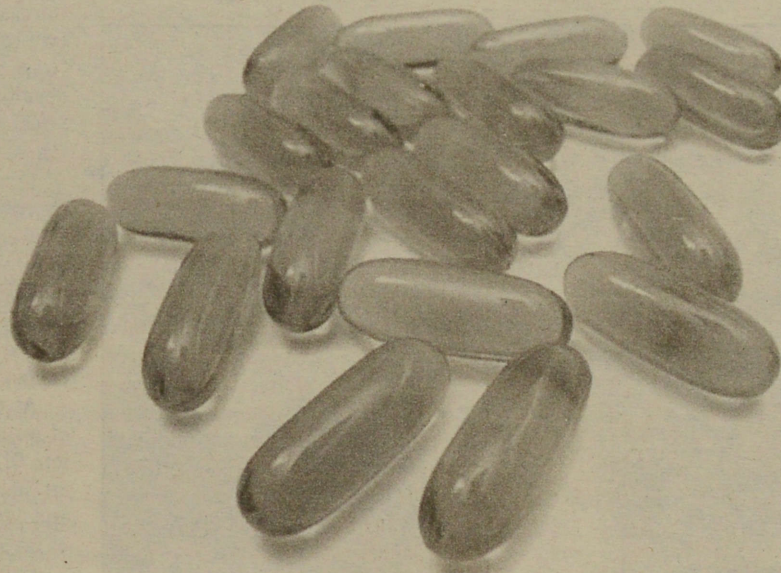
— ROBERT A. SIRICO, *Acton Notes*

November 2003

## CORRECTION

■ The January 2004 issue of *LP News* incorrectly reported that Vice Admiral Michael Colley (Ret.), a speaker at the upcoming Libertarian National Convention, joined the Libertarian Party in 2003. In fact, he first joined in 1996.

# Headache Relief



**M**ake your life a little less stressful. Join the Liberty Pledge Program.

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"I support the Liberty Pledge program because I believe it makes the party more effective. A strong, guaranteed financial base makes planning and budgeting easier, and lets the LP spend less time on fundraising and more time on actual projects. It is a welcome reminder each month that there is something I can do for liberty."

— Steve Dennett (Retired)

McLean, Virginia

When you join the Liberty Pledge Program, you'll also receive

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As an LP member or *LP News* subscriber, you've already taken the first step to protect America's precious heritage of Liberty.

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the *next* step — and become a member of the Liberty Pledge Team?

It's simple, easy, and important.

And it means you'll never have to worry about renewing your LP membership (or *LP News* subscription). It's one less headache for you.

You can join the Liberty Pledge Team online. Go to: [www.LP.org/services/contributions.html](http://www.LP.org/services/contributions.html)

Or join over the phone. Just call (202) 333-0008 x221.

**Join Online!**

Or join by mail, using the easy response form below. Thank you.

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## AFFILIATE NEWS

# Libertarians defend globalization, Christmas trees, and Bill of Rights

### ■ ALASKA

#### Party files signatures to qualify draft initiative

Libertarians have collected enough signatures to qualify an Anchorage initiative to set up a task force to study ways to exempt the city's men from registering for the draft.

On January 5, organizer and Alaska LP State Chair **Scott Kohlhaas** submitted about 10,000 petition signatures to qualify the question for the April 6, 2004 citywide ballot. Only 6,352 signatures were required.

If approved by a majority of Anchorage voters, the initiative would create a task force "to study the effects of" making Anchorage exempt from registering with Selective Service.

The study would consider factors like national security, the impact on government funding, and so on, Kohlhaas said.

Under current federal law, all American men between 18 and 25 must sign up with the Selective Service.

Kohlhaas told the Associated Press that the purpose of the initiative is to rally support for an all-volunteer military.

"This is not anti-military; this is about the draft," he said. "We're encouraging the all-volunteer force."

### ■ CALIFORNIA

#### San Diego faces a fiscal meltdown over pensions

San Diego faces bankruptcy if it doesn't rein in its lavish pension benefits package for city employees.

That was the stark warning issued by **Richard Rider**, a longtime LP activist, in a December 30 statement.

"We pay our public employees what is probably the most lucrative compensation of any major city in the world," he said. "Our city is heading towards bankruptcy, which may be the best solution to the dilemma."

According to a series of editorials in the *San Diego Union-Tribune*, politicians "have deliberately underfunded the \$3.03 billion pension plan even as they simultaneously have adopted multiple benefit hikes."

As a result, the pension system's unfunded liability will soar from \$721 million in 2003 to \$2.03 billion in 2009, and will require an additional \$157 million every year by 2009 to stay solvent.

To solve the problem, the only "practical solution is for the city to declare bankruptcy," said Rider.

"It would allow renegotiation of the bloated public employee compensation pacts [and] would force new



#### The winner of a Bill of Rights essay contest

■ **Andrew Ausley** (l) is presented with a certificate by Okaloosa County (Florida) LP Chair **Bob Rettie** for writing the best essay on the Bill of Rights. The contest was sponsored by the Okaloosa County LP and the Advocates for Self Government.

Ausley, 17, a home-schooled high school student, wrote a 500-word essay on "Synergism Within the Bill of Rights." He was presented with the certificate and \$500 on December 15, the 212th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights.

The LP selected the Bill of Rights as the topic for the contest because "it serves to remind all members of government that they serve the citizens, not rule them, and that the citizens always retain the right to stop government from becoming tyrannical," said Rettie.

thinking by the politicians — something that under current conditions is not likely to occur," he said.

### ■ FLORIDA

#### County LP Chair argues against public access TV

The county government should not squander as much as \$1 million to launch a public access TV station.

So said **Ray Roberts**, the Chair of the Alachua County LP, to the Gainesville and Alachua County commissions on January 6.

Tax-funded public access television stations force residents to "involuntarily subsidize the speech of others that have not earned your support," he said.

Roberts also offered another argument against the plan: Poor quality programming.

Most public access television stations run a steady barrage of low-quality sexual, violent, or religious programming, he told the commissioners.

The Gainesville and Alachua County commissions heard three proposals to build and run a public access television station on the local Cox Cable network. The price tags for the project ranged from \$72,000 to almost \$1 million.

Commissioners reviewed the proposals, but did not announce a decision. The cost for any public access TV station would be passed on to the network's 60,000 subscribers.

### ■ FLORIDA

#### Online poll finds little support for seizing land

Charlotte County citizens don't like eminent domain.

That's what Charlotte County LP Chair **J.P. Gravell** found out when he posted an online survey to measure local opinions about the proposed Murdock Village project.

As part of the controversial project, Charlotte County commissioners are planning to seize property to give to developers to build a "town center" in Murdock Village. The development will include a Main Street commercial center and upscale shops.

However, Gravell's poll — posted at [www.buyersrealtyfl.com](http://www.buyersrealtyfl.com) — found that public opinion was overwhelmingly against the plan.

The poll asks: "The Charlotte County Commission is buying up land for the Murdock Village Project. What is your opinion?"

As of January 7, a lopsided 92% of respondents had a negative opinion. Of that number, 31% said it was an "immoral use" of eminent domain, and 12% said it was an "illegal use" of taxpayers' money.

Only 8% said they approved of the plan.

In the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*, columnist Eric Ernst noted that Charlotte County commissioners "crossed the line Libertarians draw when it comes to the power they believe government should wield."

### ■ INDIANA

#### Cutting property taxes 'isn't hard,' says state LP

The answer to soaring local property taxes "isn't that hard," say Indiana Libertarians: Just restrain the growth of government.

That's the advice given by Indiana LP Executive Director **Brad Klopfenstein** in a December 5 statement.

"[Here's] one suggestion to eliminate the call for higher taxes: Strictly limit government spending only to core functions that cannot be done in the private sector," he said. "Spending should not be used to keep government workers employed, nor to satisfy those who benefit personally at the expense of others."

According to news reports, Indiana residents are becoming increasingly frustrated with skyrocketing local property taxes. For example, the tax bills for many rental homes have doubled, thanks to an ongoing property value reassessment program.

To solve the problem, voters need to discard their "blind loyalty" to the political parties that keep raising taxes, said Klopfenstein.

"Republicans and Democrats who got us into this mess must be removed from office," he said. "We Hoosiers are fools if we keep tolerating this abuse."

### ■ MARYLAND

#### State party files lawsuit to gain '04 ballot access

The Maryland LP has filed a lawsuit against the State Board of Elections (SBE), charging that it is illegally trying to keep the party off the 2004 ballot.

The lawsuit, filed in Anne Arundel County Circuit Court on December 1, said SBE administrator Linda Lamone improperly invalidated 4,000 of the 11,675 ballot access petitions the party filed in October.

The SBE said the signatures did not include a year in the date, which invalidated them.

State law requires 10,000 valid signatures to earn "party status" on the Maryland ballot, so the 4,000 invalidated signatures pushed the LP below the qualifying threshold.

"The signatures [were] disqualified because some voters neglected to include the year — even though it can be proved that all signatures were gathered in 2003," said national LP Ballot Access Coordinator **Bill Redpath**. "This [is an] injustice."

In the lawsuit, Maryland LP Vice Chair **Roy Meyers III** asked the SBE to send the invalidated signatures to local boards of elections to determine if they are valid, or to reimburse the LP \$1 per rejected signature so Libertarians can gather new signatures.

### ■ MARYLAND

#### College forum punctures myths on globalization

Globalization isn't ruining the world — but, instead, is offering tens of millions of people an opportunity for a better life.

That was the message delivered by **Ronald Bailey**, science correspondent for *Reason* magazine, at a Globalization Forum sponsored by University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) Libertarians on November 20.

"Globalization is the only way to make hundreds of millions of poor people rich," said Bailey. "I don't mean rich in terms of greed, but in terms of opportunity."

In his presentation, Bailey argued that globalization raises living standards, helps protect the environment, and promotes social progress.

Bailey did acknowledge that globalization tended to diminish "cultural diversity" — but said it was a minor sacrifice compared to globalization's life-saving benefits.

UMBC Libertarians President **Richard Goldman** told the *Retriever Weekly* that the forum was a success.

"I think that this presentation helped to provide a realistic picture of globalization and the benefits it can bring," he said.

### ■ MICHIGAN

#### LP campaigning experts start new political group

Three Libertarian campaign gurus have created a new Independent Political Committee (IPC) — dubbed the FIVE-PAC — to help LP candidates get elected.

FIVE-PAC, announced in December, is a way to get around Michigan's campaign finance law, which limits

**Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video**  
The definitive guide to Libertarian film. A great gift!  
Laissez-Faire Books ~ Amazon.com ~ MissLiberty.com



to \$500 the amount a person can contribute to candidates, said FIVE-PAC Treasurer **Leonard Schwartz**.

"Some Libertarian candidates have friends and relatives who want to contribute more than the maximum," he said. "So do Democratic and Republican candidates. Therefore, the Dems and Reps made a major loophole in the campaign finance law — the independent political committee (IPC)."

After it gets 25 contributors, an IPC can contribute up to \$5,000 to candidates, noted Schwartz.

FIVE-PAC (Fully Informed Voter Effort PAC), is the brainchild of **Fred Collins**, **Barb Goushaw-Collins**, and **Greg Dirasian**, who managed the successful campaigns of six Michigan LP city council candidates.

For information or to make a donation, visit: [www.5Pac.org/](http://www.5Pac.org/).

#### ■ PENNSYLVANIA

### \$21.3b state budget is a setback for taxpayers

The new budget approved by Pennsylvania politicians is a victory for bigger government — but a setback for ordinary taxpayers, the state LP has charged.

"The message is clear from both parties: Government needs to grow," said LP State Chair **Ken Krawchuk**. "And you, the taxpayer, need to feed [politicians'] insatiable hunger for power and control."

Governor Ed Rendell signed the \$21.3 billion budget on December 23. The plan calls for a 10% increase in the state income tax, a new \$500 million tax on cell phone companies, and higher taxes on cigarettes.

Krawchuk said the higher taxes will hurt state residents.

"Two years ago as the LP candidate for governor, I proposed a roll-back of state spending to accommodate the inevitable shortfall in revenue and to avoid a budget crisis," he said. "Sadly, the two major parties chose higher taxes."

"This will only lead to a decrease in business activity, an increase in joblessness, and more reasons to leave Pennsylvania."

## Online Resources for LP Members

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

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

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



Photo by Richard E. Venable

### Celebrating with the new Oceano Community Services District president

■ **Vernon R. Dahl** (second from right) has been elected president of Oceano Community Services District in California. Dahl was elevated to the board's top post on December 11, after completing the first year of his first term in office.

Shown here with Dahl are (l-r) Santa Maria businessman **Anthony Romero**, longtime LP activist **William J. Wagener**, and San Luis Obispo Region 40 LP Chair **Gail K. Lightfoot** (who is also a candidate for the California LP's 2004 U.S. Senate nomination).

The Oceano Community Services District is responsible for the oversight of fire, sewer, water, trash services, and law enforcement. In California, a community services district board serves the function of a city council for unincorporated areas of a county.

Oceano is located on the Pacific coast, about 170 miles north of Los Angeles.

#### ■ NEW YORK

### Keep government hands off churches, says party

Hands off our churches. That was the pre-holiday message the Nassau County LP delivered to the state and federal government, as Libertarians continued their campaign to stop politicians from seizing private property for commercial purposes.

"New York's eminent domain law [should be amended] to protect churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples from seizure by the government as part of urban renewal schemes," said Nassau County LP Chair **Richard Cooper** in a December 15 statement.

"[Also], federal law should be changed to prohibit use of federal funds to finance such seizures."

The Nassau County LP has been campaigning against eminent domain abuse for more than two years, and led efforts to stop North Hempstead from condemning a Pentecostal church for "community revitalization" and to stop New York City from seizing land to give to the *New York Times* corporation to build a new headquarters.

"[These] programs [are] violations of rights," said Cooper. "Instead of protecting the people's right to property, the government is conducting legalized theft."

#### ■ TEXAS

### Party aids students in zoning ordinance fight

The Lubbock County LP has joined forces with the Texas Tech Student Government Association to try to

overturn a Lubbock ordinance that makes it a crime for more than two unrelated persons to live in a single-family home.

Texas LP State Chair **David DeLamar** said Libertarians oppose the ordinance because it discriminates against college students, low-income residents, and the elderly. As such, it violates the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, he said.

In addition, it violates property rights and reduces the value of rental properties, said DeLamar.

"The ordinance is limiting the amount of rent a property owner can charge, and it is taking away [revenue] from the property owner," he said.

The ordinance is being used selectively to kick students out of off-campus housing, charged **Joe Biles**, a member of the Student Government Association's Lubbock Zoning Law Task Force.

To qualify an initiative to repeal the ordinance, supporters must collect signatures equal to 25% of the number of votes cast in the last city election, or about 4,500 signatures.

#### ■ TEXAS

### On TV show, LP leader argues for ballot access

Harris County LP Chair **Anthony Garcia** used a television appearance to make a pitch for a more open election system.

"There are a lot of people out there who are not voting because they feel their vote doesn't count — that politics as usual is going to go on no matter who they vote for," said Garcia

on *The Connection* on the Houston PBS affiliate on November 18.

"[Voters] look at the candidates being offered by the Democratic and Republican parties and they see no difference between a big-government Democrat and a big-government Republican."

Appearing with Garcia were representatives of the Republican, Democratic, and Green parties. The show's host noted that less than 50% of American citizens vote, and asked the guests: "Is our democracy in trouble?"

Perhaps, said Garcia, and one way to strengthen it would be to eliminate ballot access barriers that keep third parties off the ballot.

"The biggest problem that we have as alternative parties is we can't even get on the ballot without having to jump some huge hurdles," he said.

#### ■ UTAH

### Minister delivers sermon on libertarianism, faith

Does God like Libertarians? The Bible doesn't say — but one Unitarian minister seems to think He does.

In a sermon delivered at the South Valley Unitarian Universalist Society in Salt Lake City on November 9, Rev. Sean Parker Dennison told his congregation: "You, Too, Can Be a Libertarian."

In the sermon, Rev. Dennison said that while researching libertarianism, he learned that it was based on three principles: Freedom, reason, and tolerance. That was interesting, he said, because Unitarian Universalism is based on the same three principles.

"It got better," said Utah LP activist **Rob Latham**, who attended the

service. "The sermon concluded with Rev. Dennison's admonition that he wasn't advising members to run out and register Libertarian, but he did advise them to give libertarianism a closer look."

The sermon came about because at a South Valley Unitarian fundraising auction, Utah LP member **Aaron Turpen** had won the right to select a sermon topic.

"[Aaron] requested a sermon on libertarianism, proving again that market incentives can yield wonderful results," said Latham.

#### ■ VIRGINIA

### Virginia LP offers plea: Legalize Christmas trees

Just in time for the holidays, the Virginia LP came out in favor of legalized ... Christmas trees.

Libertarians took the pro-"Christmas cheer" position after the Virginia Fire Marshal made possession of a live Christmas tree in apartments, churches, hospitals, and dormitories a misdemeanor punishable by one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine.

The Fire Marshal said Christmas trees were a fire hazard. But Libertarians said the government was playing Scrooge.

"The tradition of illuminating Christmas trees dates back to the 17th century," noted Virginia LP State Chair **Steve Damerell**. "It is the height of absurdity to criminalize such a long-standing tradition."

In response to criticism, the Fire Marshal partially repealed the ban on December 3. The modified regulation made trees legal for apartments, but they remained a crime for churches, hospitals, and dormitories.

That was a step in the right direction, acknowledged Damerell. But why not repeal the ban for churches and hospitals, too?

"People trust healthcare workers and the clergy with their lives and souls," he said. "Why is the Fire Marshal saying they are not responsible enough to decorate Christmas trees?"

#### ■ VIRGINIA

### Jefferson Area LP marks Bill of Rights birthday

Jefferson Area Libertarians held a public birthday party for the Bill of Rights — saying it's time for politicians to "read this document."

On December 6, Libertarians held a group reading of the Bill of Rights on the steps of the University of Virginia Rotunda in Charlottesville.

Participants included past LP national chairmen **Steve Dasbach** and **James W. Lark**, as well as representatives from Students for Individual Liberty, the Liberty Coalition, and the Individual Rights Coalition.

In his comments, Dasbach noted that "anti-terrorism" legislation like the USA/Patriot Act has undermined the freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.

"[Americans should] stand up and insist that our leaders in Washington read this document," he said. "If we do not stand up for liberty, then the terrorists have won. If we don't stand up for liberty, then what is it we are fighting for anyway?"



## THE REVIEW

### The Drug War's bogus case

■ *A Drug War Carol*, by Susan W. Wells and Scott Bieser. BigHead Press, trade paperback, 80 pages. \$5.95. Available at: Amazon.com.

Reviewed by Sunni Maravillosa  
FREE-MARKET.NET

Graphic novellas generally don't do much for me. Even if the story is good, I often find the heavy reliance on illustrations over text ineffective. I'd rather imagine the people and settings, and get more details that typical short stories and novels provide.

*A Drug War Carol* may have cured me of this bias, because a large part of what made the book work so well for me is Scott Bieser's amazing artwork.

Yes, I know ... this book isn't really new. It's been around online for quite some time. But it is new in print format (published in September, 2003), which makes its important message more widely available, and more credible to those who believe the Internet is nothing but one big conspiracy theory after another.

The premise of *A Drug War Carol* is straightforward: Borrowing from Dickens' Christmas Carol, Wells and Bieser have a semi-fictional drug war czar visited by the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future, showing how the war on drugs began and how it will end for their main character, whose appearance reminds me a bit of Barry McCaffrey.

That, and the appearance — both in name and cartoon depiction — of Vin Suprynowicz in the book are among the several subtle treats in the book. Bieser (and those who assisted him) have created a wonderfully rich visual tale, one which is understated enough to make the book accessible to those normally close-minded to drug legalization issues. I found myself enjoying the artwork equally with the text, something that has not happened with a graphic novella before.

That isn't to suggest the text is somehow flawed. The ghost of Christmas Past dominates the tale, as the origins of the drug war are extensively detailed (with footnotes, no less!), but that history is very important to understanding how thoroughly flawed this war is.

For those who've long wondered if the story about one of Johns Hopkins' founders being a drug addict is apocryphal, it's unambiguously addressed. Page after page, the bogus case for drug regulation is documented beyond any reasonable person's ability to discount.

That's really what matters most, because once an individual can see that the war on all drugs has destroyed thousands of lives, cost fortunes, and created the regulatory burden of so-called pharmaceutical medications, it's an easy step to understand that these regulations must be abolished. How to do that isn't specifically addressed in the book, and its conclusion is perhaps a bit anticlimactic after the careful, thorough presentation of the building of this beast. Even so, *A Drug War Carol* is a powerful tool for helping individuals understand the necessarily evil nature of turning private choices into crimes.

*A Drug War Carol*, coupled with a good discussion of Rush Limbaugh's recent revelations regarding his substance use, should open many conservatives' eyes to the harm these policies — largely pushed by the right — have caused.

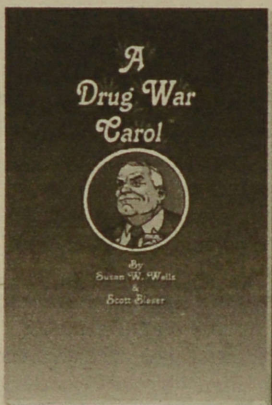
*A Drug War Carol* is still available online. The print version doesn't have the convenience of hyperlinked footnotes, but that's really the only advantage the online edition has over the physical book.

The drug issue is not going away — indeed, the Medicare "reform" boondoggle will result in even more money being stolen to finance seniors' prescription medications. These facts make the \$5.95 Amazon price for this compact, information-dense gem an easy, worthwhile investment to make into supporting an independent, libertarian publisher and its creative authors.

Individuals across the political spectrum, law enforcement officers, judges, drug rehab counselors, and physicians who support the status quo view of drug use and abuse can benefit from *A Drug War Carol*.

For those who are interested in obtaining multiple copies of the book, see the book's website ([www.adrugwarcarol.com](http://www.adrugwarcarol.com)) for discounts, or procurement for nonprofit drug law reform organizations (for reselling, premiums, etc.). Price will vary with quantity.

■ **About the reviewer:** Sunni Maravillosa is the Book of the Month editor at Free-Market.net and co-founder of the Liberty Round Table. This review originally published on Free-Market.net.



## Medical pot refugee Steve Kubby denied political asylum in Canada

Medical marijuana refugee and former California LP gubernatorial candidate Steve Kubby has been denied political asylum in Canada.

Kubby, who takes marijuana on doctor's orders to treat a rare form of adrenal cancer, had requested asylum because he said he would face a death sentence if he was returned to the United States and denied access to the drug.

However, in a December 8 ruling, the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board ruled that Kubby did not have reasonable grounds to "fear cruel and unusual punishment" in the United States.

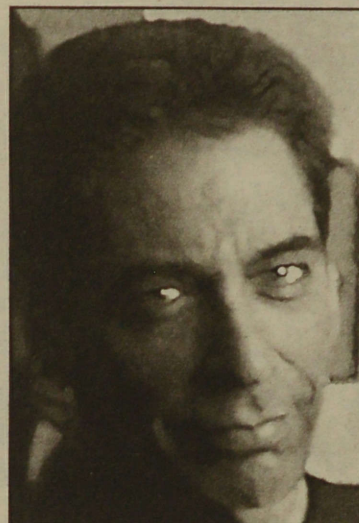
Kubby, who may have to leave Canada within 30 days, said the decision was motivated by prejudice against medical marijuana.

### 'A bigoted decision'

"We were just stunned when we saw the decision because it was just completely contrary to the testimony and the science and the evidence that we introduced," he told the Associated Press. "We really think this decision is not only erroneous, but a bigoted decision."

"These people seem determined to want to put me in a prison cell to see if I'm really telling the truth — that I have life and death medical necessity for medical cannabis."

Kubby, 57, who currently lives in Sechelt, British Columbia with his



■ **Steve Kubby:** "We were just stunned when we saw the decision because it was just completely contrary to the evidence."

wife Michele and their two daughters, said he will appeal the decision to the Federal Court of Canada.

If he is extradited to the USA, Kubby said he will be denied access to the medical marijuana that has kept him alive for the past 35 years.

"If I go back to the United States, I'm facing an immediate bailiff's warrant," he told the Associated Press. "They'll put me in jail. They're not going to give me marijuana. I am really between a rock and a hard place."

Kubby had been diagnosed with a form of adrenal cancer in 1968, and

was given just a few years to live.

He has defied the odds since then. He had surgery to remove a tumor, got chemotherapy and radiation treatment, and began smoking marijuana to suppress the cancer.

Before fleeing to Canada, Kubby was a resident of California, where he used medical marijuana legally under the state's Proposition 215. Passed by voters in 1996, it legalized the use of medical marijuana under a doctor's supervision.

In 1998, Kubby ran for governor of California on the Libertarian Party ticket in a campaign that focused on overturning the state government's foot-dragging on Proposition 215.

### Medicinal purposes

In 1999, police raided Kubby's home in Olympia Valley and found marijuana plants. Kubby used Proposition 215 as a defense, saying he grew and used the drug for medicinal purposes.

A deadlocked jury acquitted Kubby and Michele of possession of marijuana with intent to sell. However, Kubby was convicted of possession of trace amounts of mescaline.

The felony conviction was reduced to a misdemeanor, and Kubby was sentenced to 120 days in jail. He fled to Canada in 2001, saying jail time without access to medical marijuana was tantamount to a death sentence.

In August 2002, Kubby was  
See **KUBBY** Page 11

## Constitutional Leadership for the U.S. Senate

"First, we need to immediately eliminate the federal income tax. Secondly, the Vice-President should use the check on the U.S. Senate ascribed by the U.S. Constitution by actually serving as the active Presiding Officer of the U.S. Senate for all sessions. This constitutional power should not be delegated to the U.S. Senate majority party leader. Finally, I am also calling for a constitutional amendment to change the way a bill must be presented to either chamber of the U.S. Congress. All bills should have a minimum public review period during which no changes can be made before a floor vote. We need an open and honest government - where the voters have an opportunity to provide direct feedback on pending legislation. This method would also help minimize rampant pet-project spending. Now is the time for some unprecedented leadership from the Vice-President of the United States."

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# Ron Paul to speak at Convention

Continued from Page 4

14th District U.S. House seat in 1998. After defeating a Democrat-turned-Republican for the GOP nomination, he went on to win the general election. He was re-elected in 2000 and 2002.

A renowned tax fighter, Paul has received awards from the National Taxpayers Union and Citizens Against Government Waste.

■ **Sharon Harris:** She is the president of the non-partisan, Georgia-based, Advocates for Self-Government, which was named the "most effective" libertarian organization by *LP News* readers in 1999.

The Advocates, a non-profit educational organization, teaches libertarians how to be more effective communicators.

Harris is an award-winning speaker, and has presented libertarian ideas on radio talk shows, on cable TV, to college political science classes, and even to Republican gatherings.

Harris was a founding member of the Georgia LP, and won over 300,000 votes as the LP candidate for Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture in 1994.

Previously announced speakers for the 2004 Convention include *Terrorism and Tyranny* author James Bovard, anti-Brady Bill sheriff Richard Mack, LP founder David Nolan, retired U.S. Navy vice admiral Michael Colley, actor Dean Cameron, Superior Court Judge James Gray, syndicated radio talk show host Neal Boortz, *Healing Our World* author Mary Ruwart, and 2002 Minnesota LP gubernatorial candidate Ed Thompson.

Four-time Grammy Award-winning blues singer and guitarist Jimmie

Vaughan will perform at a benefit concert at the Convention.

In addition to the new speakers, package prices for the convention have been announced. They are:

■ **GOLD** (\$329) The "all-inclusive" package. Includes three breakfasts with speakers, two lunches with speakers, and the Sunday Night Banquet. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus all events in the Main Hall and workshops.

■ **SILVER** (\$239) The mid-priced package. Includes three breakfasts with speakers, plus the Sunday Night Banquet. It also includes the Thursday "Welcome" Reception, plus access to all events in the Main Hall and workshops.

■ **BRONZE** (\$149) This lower-priced package includes three breakfasts, access to all the Main Hall speakers and workshops, and the Thursday "Welcome" Reception.

■ **SPEAKER** (\$89) The "economy" package. Offers access to the Main Hall and speakers/panels at the workshops. It also includes the Thursday evening "Welcome" Reception.

■ **BASIC** (\$49) The "bare-bones" package. It provides access to the Main Convention Hall, including many key speakers.

The deadline for these "Early Bird" prices is March 31, 2004.

All packages come with a souvenir tote bag, name badge, and a complete Convention Program.

Separate tickets are required for the Friday night concert featuring

Jimmie Vaughan and other musicians. Cost: \$25.

Reservations at the Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel are available for \$99 a night for single or double occupancy, \$119 for triple, or \$139 for quad. The special rates are available May 24 to June 1, 2004.

For hotel reservations, call (800) 228-9290 or (404) 521-0000. Mention the Libertarian Party convention to get the special rates.

For more information about the 2004 National Convention, e-mail: [convention@hq.LP.org](mailto:convention@hq.LP.org). Or visit: [www.LP.org/conv/2004](http://www.LP.org/conv/2004).



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

Every day, well over 2,500 people take our world-famous **World's Smallest Political Quiz** online.

In fact, on average, 2,679 people. *Every day.*

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

Over 34% of them score Libertarian on our Quiz — **that's over 900 per day.**

*And they are excited!*

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

**In all, over 2.3 million people** have now taken the Word's Smallest Political Quiz online! Over two million people exposed to libertarian ideas in a positive, eye-opening way. Over two million people exposed to a new political map that includes libertarians.

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

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



### The good news doesn't stop there.

These 34%-plus who score Libertarian, along with others who express an interest in learning more about liberty, have just taken a first step in a carefully-developed Advocates three-step program to build a mass movement of persuasive, knowledgeable libertarian activists. Here it is in a nutshell:

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

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

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

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

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



## Steve Kubby is denied asylum

Continued from Page 10

granted permission by Health Canada to grow and smoke marijuana for medical reasons.

Under Canadian law, people can use marijuana for medical purposes.

In April 2003, Kubby formally requested political asylum in Canada, arguing that he would be jailed if he returned to the USA. Since he would be denied access to medical marijuana, such a jail sentence would constitute "cruel and unusual punishment" and torture, he argued.

At his hearing, Dr. Joseph Connors of the British Columbia Cancer Agency testified that Kubby would die within four days if he did not have access to medical marijuana.

However, in its December 8 ruling, the Immigration and Refugee Board rejected that argument, stating: "There are no substantial grounds to believe that his removal to the United States will subject him personally to a danger of torture."

Kubby said he would appeal the decision. An appeal could take up to three years, and Kubby would not be deported until the appeals process has run its course.

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# The 78 rules of politics

Continued from Page 1

one bothered to write them down. (Why? Because common sense usually isn't.) Some are so insightful they will change the way you look at politics. Some are so salty you'll smile.

But all have some kernel of truth that might come in handy in a future campaign, initiative lobbying effort, or term in office.

Consider these "78 Rules of Politics" a crash course in political reality for non-politicians.

**A** better-liked candidate will almost always beat a more competent candidate. — Bill Straub

Whenever two candidates agree on an issue, there's no debate on that issue, so the contest shifts to other issues. — Clifford D. May

Winning elections is about moving "swing voters." Winning is not about reaching the voters already for you or against you, but by focusing on the undecideds, the swing vote. — The Democracy Center

Whoever controls the agenda, controls the outcome. — Professor David C. Leeger

Never make more campaign promises than necessary. — *The Wyeth Wire*

The only two real political questions are: "Who's getting screwed?" and "Who's doing the screwing?" — Molly Ivins

Simplify your campaign message. If you can't get your message down to two or three sentences, you're more interested in hearing yourself talk than you are in communicating. — Sal Gazzetta

In politics, an organized minority is a political majority. — Jesse Jackson

Avoid controversy. — David Ammons

Fundraise often. The candidate should spend four to five hours, six days a week, fundraising. A candidate who is serious about winning will do this. — Bob McDevitt

Become reality-driven. Don't kid yourself. Find out what's what, and base your decisions and actions on that. — Gary E. Johnson

If you don't delegate, you'll lose. — Craig Varoga

If in doubt, don't. If still in doubt, do what's right. — Donald Rumsfeld

Campaign behavior for wives: Always be on time. Do as little talking as humanly possible. Lean back in the parade car so everybody can see the president. — Eleanor Roosevelt

When only one side fights, they win. — James Zogby

Always change a losing game plan. — Alan Tonelson

Do not lose touch with reality. Take voters as they are. For most voters, politics is only a small and not very important part of life. — Rainer Erkens

Define yourself and your priorities before your opposition defines you. — Joe Murray

The more campaigning, the better. — Unknown

**When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.**  
DENNIS GREEN

**Don't be fooled by your own propaganda.**  
DAVE STEWART

**Talk about what voters care about.**  
SAL GAZZETTA

What really counts is not how many people line up on each side of an issue, but how intensely each side holds its opinions. — James M. Lindsay

Always ask the question: How does this make people happy? At the end of the day, elections are about making people happy. — Garry F. Douglas

Politics is practiced to be in power. Politics is practiced to remain in power. One way or the other, politics is the game of power. — Nepal News

People with power never give it up without a fight. — Mark Latham

To get votes, you must offer people something and be respected by your constituency. — Arthur Nitzburg

Avoid energizing the opposition's base. — Solveig Singleton

Talk about what voters care about. — Sal Gazzetta

The winner is not always the swiftest, surest, or smartest. It's the one willing to get

up at 5:00 am and go to the plant gate to meet the workers. — Unknown

Get elected. Get re-elected. — Everett Dirksen

With the press, there is no "off the record." — Donald Rumsfeld

Most people vote *against* somebody rather than for somebody. — Franklin Pierce Adams

Listen to the people and focus on their prime needs. — Rainer Erkens

Before you announce your campaign, be prepared to answer the question: "Why are you running?" You should have a one-sentence, 30-second, 2-minute, and 10-minute version of this answer. — Ron Crickenger

The fact that you're on their side doesn't mean that they're on your side. — T. Nielsen Hayden

Don't run against a popular incumbent unless you are well known and have a strong base of support. — Arthur Nitzburg

When you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. — Dennis Green

The pen is mightier than the sword, but money beats them both. — Bradley Canon

Speak in simple terms! Use short

sentences. Avoid complicated technical terms people cannot even pronounce, let alone understand. — Rainer Erkens

The first rule of politics is to know thine enemy. — Newt Gingrich

Don't be fooled by your own propaganda. — Dave Stewart

Persuasion is a two-edged sword — reason and emotion. Plunge it deep. — Professor Lewis Sarett, Sr.

Politics is the art of the possible. — Otto von Bismarck

There are no permanent victories in Washington. — Edwin J. Feulner

Voters want to know where you stand on the two or three compelling issues that matter in their lives. — Dotty E. Lemieux

Never let the extreme wing of your party have any part in the campaign. The extremists have nowhere else to go. They are a given. The group you're after is the middle, and you don't get them by making them think that your party kooks will ever really have a role in governing. — Rafe Mair

Find your message and stay on it. — Suzi Parker

Don't talk about what you care about; talk about what they care about. — Sal Gazzetta

If you are a candidate, focus on only two things: Raising money and effectively communicating your message to the voters. Everything else should be handled by staff or volunteers. — Kamioner & Associates

It's better to have your enemies inside the tent pissing out, than outside the tent pissing in. — Lyndon B. Johnson

A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow. — General George Patton

Don't do anything you wouldn't want to read about in the local newspaper. — George Skelton

If everyone in your community looks like a penguin, don't run as an aardvark. — Sal Gazzetta

The ground rules of politics generally begin and end with doing what it takes to win. — John L. Smith

Whenever anyone says it's not about the money, it's about the money. — Bill Clinton

No attack should go unanswered. — Steve Bousquet

The art of politics consists in knowing precisely when it is necessary to hit an opponent slightly below the belt. — Konrad Adenauer

Don't use words no one else does. — Gregory Dunn

Money is still the mother's milk of politics. If you don't have at least a bare-bones budget, you will end up exhausted, broke, and un-elected. — Dotty E. Lemieux

When your interview segment is finished, assume your microphone is still on. — Doug & D.M. Collins

Never get into an argument with people who buy ink by the barrel. — Lane Kirkland

First rule of politics: You can't win unless you're on the ballot. — Donald Rumsfeld

A rule of thumb: In a winning race, expect to spend at least \$1 per

person in your district. Per person; not per voter. — Sal Gazzetta

When your enemy is busy digging himself into a ditch, let him keep digging. — Stephen Moore

Image is everything. — Linda Williamson

How you do in one election does not always translate into how you will do in another one. — Ron Faucheux

Consultants don't lose elections; candidates do. — Michael Tomasky

All politics is local. — Tip O'Neil

Raise 20% of your total campaign funds up front as seed money. If you can't get 20% up front, you shouldn't be running to win. — Sal Gazzetta

Secure your base. — Madeleine Albright

If you step in front of a microphone, get your facts straight. — Ron Word

Dance with the one that brung you. — Darryl Royal

Money matters most in modern elections. — Derek Cressman

What you say doesn't matter; it's what your opponents can claim you say which counts. — Simon Hoggart

If you know what you're doing, do more of it. But if you don't know what you're doing, do less. — James Pinkerton

Concentrate on three issues which are of interest to your voters and stick to them. — Rainer Erkens

Anything that will be revealed eventually should be revealed immediately. — Henry Kissinger

An organized minority trumps a disorganized majority. — Sam Freedman

Never turn down a free meal and never miss an opportunity to visit the bathroom. — Lyndon B. Johnson



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This amazing weight-free training will be available in the following cities (subject to change):

Sun	Feb 1 <sup>st</sup> Tucson, AZ	Mon	Mar 15 <sup>th</sup> San Jose, CA
Mon	Feb 9 <sup>th</sup> Gainesville, FL	Mon	Mar 22 <sup>nd</sup> Chicago, IL (4 hrs)
Tues	Feb 10 <sup>th</sup> Ocala FL (4 hrs)	Tue	Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup> Chicago, IL (4 hrs)
Wed	Feb 11 <sup>th</sup> Ocala FL (4 hrs)	Sun	Mar 28 <sup>th</sup> Richmond, VA
Sat	Feb 13 <sup>th</sup> Orlando, FL	Sun	Apr 4 <sup>th</sup> Framingham, MA
Sun	Feb 22 <sup>nd</sup> Jacksonville, FL	Mon	Apr 19 <sup>th</sup> Lansing, MI
Sun	Feb 29 <sup>th</sup> Douglasville, GA	Mon	Apr 26 <sup>th</sup> Indianapolis, IN
Tues	Mar 2 <sup>nd</sup> Memphis, TN	Thurs	May 27 <sup>th</sup> Atlanta, GA (convention)
Mon	Mar 8 <sup>th</sup> Kansas City, MO (4 hrs)	(The class in Atlanta will be offered for \$25 but only if you register before May 1 <sup>st</sup> .)	
Tues	Mar 9 <sup>th</sup> Kansas City, MO (4 hrs)		

**\*This class does not require continuous repetition in order to be effective, however participants will be expected to think hard during this full day experience**



# Ohio Libertarians file suit

Continued from Page 3  
of State," said Blackwell.

Ohio Libertarians had submitted the signatures on October 30 to qualify a slate of up to 100 candidates for the 2004 ballot. The signatures had been gathered during a two-year petitioning drive at a cost of about \$50,000.

State law requires 32,290 signatures — equal to 1% of the votes cast in the last gubernatorial election — to earn minor party status, which allows candidates to appear on the ballot with a partisan label.

"We poured our heart and soul into this ballot drive," said Ohio LP Vice Chair Dena Bruedigam. "People all over the state circulated petitions and people all over the state signed petitions saying they want the Libertarian Party on the ballot in Ohio."

"But Blackwell arbitrarily ruled them invalid due to a petition language technicality. Allowing the secretary of state to make arbitrary decisions like this is just plain wrong."

In the lawsuit, Libertarians charged that Blackwell's decision violated the free speech and political assembly protections of the First Amendment, and the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

The lawsuit also charges that Ohio ballot rules are so capricious that political incumbents can use them to obstruct political opponents.

"The rules that affected our petition are completely arbitrary," said Hallmark. "We began this petition drive before the [petition law] changes were made, yet even signatures gathered before the new petition form was instituted were thrown out."

## Nullify any petition

"What this says, in effect, is that the secretary of state can nullify any petition drive, at any point, and on a whim, simply by changing some requirements. In effect, no petition could ever succeed, if they chose to keep making frequent and minor changes."

In addition, Blackwell has a "history of leniency" when it comes to approving petitions filed by members of his own party, the Republicans, said Hallmark.

"I think we can show that [Blackwell's] actions were an abuse of discretion," he said.

Hallmark said Blackwell apparently decided to reject the LP petitions to protect the Republican Party

from potential competition in 2004.

"This is an outrageous example of Republicans like Blackwell abusing their position for political gain," he said. "Republican Governor [Bob] Taft has really moved the Republican Party and the state government in a big government direction. This means that the traditional Republican constituency of small-government con-

**"THIS IS AN EXAMPLE  
of Republicans  
abusing their position  
for political gain."  
—Jason Hallmark**

servatives are being left behind.

"By eliminating the Libertarian option for these voters, Blackwell and company are protecting their flanks."

Interestingly, Ohio Libertarians aren't the only ones making the claim that Blackwell may have acted out of partisan self interest.

In a December 8 column in the *Columbus Dispatch*, writer Steve Stephens noted that the politician "who might benefit the most from no Libertarians on the ballot" is Blackwell.

"He is positioning himself to run as a tax cutter and champion of

smaller government in the 2006 Republican gubernatorial primary," wrote Stephens. "With no Libertarian on the ballot, he stands to pick up [the votes that would have gone to a Libertarian candidate.]"

The attorneys working on the Ohio LP's lawsuit are Gary Sinawski of New York and Donald McTigue of Ohio.

Donations for the Ohio LP's ballot challenge can be sent to: The Libertarian Party of Ohio, 700 Morse Road, Suite 208, Columbus, Ohio 43214.

Or make an online donation at: [www.lpo.org/Activism/DonateBallot.shtml](http://www.lpo.org/Activism/DonateBallot.shtml).

## "I'm tired of wasting my vote. This year, I'm supporting Gary Nolan for President."

As a small business owner, I experience first-hand the damage caused by ridiculous regulations, oppressive taxes, and runaway spending. I know how many new jobs I could create, and how much more I could afford to pay my current employees, if the federal government would just get off my back.

For years I've voted Republican, because they promised to make government smaller. I was thrilled when the Republicans took control of Congress and expected them to cut spending and eliminate programs. But all I got were excuses.

"We need to elect a Republican President", they said. "Then we'll be able to cut spending and repeal regulations." So I voted for George W. Bush and encouraged my friends to do the same. And when he won, I really thought we would see smaller government.

But it hasn't happened. Republicans promised to reduce government, but federal spending is growing faster under President Bush than it did under President Clinton.

President Bush asked for and got record spending increases for the Departments of Education and Energy, which

President Reagan wanted to eliminate. He and the Republican leadership steam-rolled a new prescription drug entitlement through Congress at a time when existing entitlement programs threaten to bankrupt us, our children, and our grandchildren.

I'm tired of wasting my vote by supporting candidates who promise one thing to get elected, but do the opposite in office. This year, I'm supporting a candidate for President who I know shares my desire for small, Constitutionally limited government. I'm supporting Libertarian Gary Nolan.

I know that if millions of Americans join me in supporting Gary Nolan for President, a Democrat might end up occupying the White House. But that's okay with me. Gridlock

would be better than runaway spending and out-of-control deficits, which is what we're getting now.

This year, I'm voting for what I truly believe in. I'm supporting Libertarian Gary Nolan for President and I hope you'll support him too.

**-Mike Wilson, CEO & Founder, Political Grounds Coffee Company, Inc.**



**Mike Wilson, small business owner with  
Vice President, Dick Cheney.**

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[libertarian@erols.com](mailto:libertarian@erols.com)





## CONVENTION 2004 REPORT

### Convention Basics 101

**T**he Convention is less than four months away! I assume you read through the pull-out Convention insert in last month's *LP News*. This issue has another insert, announcing a few more speakers and some new bits of information.

Hopefully you have made your hotel reservations with the Marriott and have sent in your registration to attend all the great activities.

I have covered most of the following points, but some things bear repeating. The overall schedule is pretty much the same as in the past, and should make sense to convention veterans. But to a first-timer the whole process may seem confusing (as it was for me many years ago). If you've never been, we want you to *make this your first National LP Convention!*

**You do not have to be a delegate** or even a party member to attend the Convention. But some people are still unclear on this. An "attendee" is someone who pays to attend the various functions; a "delegate" is someone who has been officially sanctioned to participate in the business sessions. You can be either one or both.

The main purpose of a national convention is for delegates from their respective states to gather and vote on items of business of the National LP. This includes changes to the Platform and Bylaws, plus election of new party officers and other LNC members.

And, since 2004 is a presidential year, the delegates will also nominate our presidential and VP candidates. (I see we may have even more horses in the race now, too!)

The business is the *primary* purpose for the Convention, and the other events and activities are *ancillary* to the business. *But it's all these ancillary activities — the meals, workshops, social events — that can be the most fun and make the whole convention experience so rewarding!*

**One of our goals is to have as many people there as possible,** delegates and non-delegates. When it comes to such a big event, I definitely believe the adage, "The more, the merrier!"

To become a delegate you must be an LP member and you must contact your state and/or local LP affiliate (now) and follow the procedures for becoming a delegate from your state. Each state is responsible for submitting a list of delegates to the Credentials Committee.

Our Bylaws allow for over 1,400 Delegates. I don't believe we've ever had a completely full delegation. A big factor is that everyone must pay their own way to be there, and not everyone can manage it. Geography is a factor too; the host state and the surrounding states usually fill their delegations, while states from farther away usually do not.

Since the Convention is open to anyone and we want non-members there as well, I'm open to ideas of ways to promote this to people who don't get *LP News*. Besides getting the info into state and local LP newsletters, I'd like suggestions for other outlets (especially inexpensive ones, like liberty-friendly websites).

**I wish to thank those who have come forward as volunteers,** but it won't hurt to have even more than we need, so contact me if you'd like to help in some way.

And do let me know if you want to be a vendor or exhibitor. Unfortunately, the Convention has also been adversely affected by the BCRA ruling. It inhibits us from taking corporate money, which means we can't sell space to many of our past vendors. But there are options for corporate vendors.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in getting more info into the Convention page of the LP website. There have been so many changes at HQ (as you know) and some things are just out of my control. But I think we've got things up and running now.

See you in Atlanta!

**Nancy Neale**

convention@hq.LP.org



## With major Democrats, Gary Nolan speaks at College Convention 2004

**F**or the second time in three months, Gary Nolan participated in a campaign event that included most of the major Democratic presidential contenders.

Nolan, a candidate for the LP's presidential nomination, spoke at the College Convention 2004, sponsored by New England College in Manchester, New Hampshire on January 8.

The event attracted more than 1,000 students from around the USA, and scores of journalists who were covering the Granite State's first-in-the-nation presidential primary.

Democrats appearing at the College Convention 2004 included John Kerry, Joseph Lieberman, John Edwards, Howard Dean, Dennis Kucinich, Wesley Clark, and Carol Moseley Braun.

In October, Nolan spoke at the Arab American Institute's National Conference in Dearborn, Michigan, where eight major Democratic candidates also spoke.

#### "Credible candidate"

Nolan's campaign manager, Steve Dasbach, said, "Gary is being invited to events with major Democratic candidates because he is seen as a credible candidate who has the potential to affect the outcome of the race."

Before attending the College Convention, Nolan ended 2003 with a flurry of campaigning. In December, he gave a speech at a Forfeiture Endangers American Rights Rally in



■ Gary Nolan, a candidate for the LP's presidential nomination, speaks at the College Convention 2004 in Manchester, New Hampshire.



Washington, DC, spoke at three LP events in Virginia, attended two fundraisers in Pennsylvania to raise money for ballot access, and spoke at an LP meeting in New York.

Nolan also gave a speech at the Indianapolis Press Club in Indiana, campaigned in Kentucky, spoke in Nashville, Tennessee, attended a "meet and greet" in North Carolina, made a swing through Georgia, and participated in three campaign events


in North Carolina.

To contact the Nolan for President campaign, call: (703) 237-3533. E-mail: [info@garynolan.com](mailto:info@garynolan.com). Visit: [www.GaryNolan.com](http://www.GaryNolan.com). Write: Gary Nolan for President, P.O. Box 6308, Falls Church, VA 22040.

The other active candidate for the LP's presidential nomination, Michael Badnarik, had no scheduled campaign events in December.

To contact the Badnarik campaign, visit: [www.badnarik.org](http://www.badnarik.org).

The LP's 2004 presidential candidate will be selected by delegates at the LP National Convention, held May 27-31, 2004 in Atlanta, Georgia.

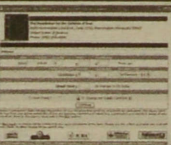


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"Click & Pledge allows us to receive donations and membership dues over the Internet for a very low cost, and it easily integrated with our web site! Our favorite thing about Click & Pledge is that there are no monthly fees." *James Eisert, Manhattan Libertarian Party*


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# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION



MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

www.LP.org/conv/2004

## THINGS ARE REALLY HEATING UP!

Your registration forms are coming in!

by Nancy Neale

### CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

The "brochure" is slightly different this time, as it is the center sheet (on regular newsprint) of the *LP News* rather than a separate insert. (Hopefully we'll catch all the errors this time.) I encourage you to take this out and keep it with the one from January, so that you have all the information published so far.

I must express my sincere apologies for the very long delay in getting more information onto the Convention page of the LP website. As you know there have been many changes at LPHQ and one of them is the replacement of our webmaster, and this has hindered our progress in that regard. I thank you for your patience and understanding.

You will notice a whole new bunch of speakers and entertainers in this issue. These are all in addition to those featured last month: Mary Ruwart, James Bovard, Jim Gray, Ron Paul, Richard Mack, David Nolan, Michael Colley, Neal Boortz, Ed Thompson, Carl Milsted, Jim Lark, and of course Jimmie Vaughan. (Wow, I just realized we have four

guys named "James"!)

And you can expect many more announced next time! (We're working on some really good ones.) As we confirm more people, we will start filling in the schedule with specific names for specific times.

If you are a current (or future) candidate or campaign manager, you will definitely want to register for the Intensive Campaign Training Workshop, which will take place all-day on Thursday, before the Convention officially begins. There is a separate additional charge, and well worth it if you are serious about winning!

I have some great news regarding room rates at the Marriott. They have extended the \$99/night rate (which they promise is lower than anything available to the public) to not only include single and double, but triple and quad occupancy as well. Although not desirable to most of you (two in a double bed), it might be a benefit to some of our "starving student" Libertarians. (Children under 18 are free anyway, so don't count; I believe there is a charge for roll-aways.)

Please note that it is important that you mention that you are with the Libertarian Party Convention – not just to get the special rate, but so that the room counts are credited to our Convention account. (It really is important.)

As always, please let me know if you have any questions: [convention@hq.LP.org](mailto:convention@hq.LP.org)

## LP CONVENTION A VERITABLE WHO'S-WHO OF LIMITED GOVERNMENT MILIEU

Don't miss out on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!



Sharon Harris

### Sharon Harris

Sharon Harris has been president of the Advocates for Self-Government since 1995. She publishes *The Libertarian Communicator* magazine and *The Liberator Online*, one of the world's largest libertarian e-mail newsletters with over 50,000 readers in over 100 countries.

The Advocates is the creator of the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" (WSPQ), based on the two-dimensional "Nolan" Chart. They market the "Operation Politically Homeless" (OPH) booth "kits" to help libertarians bring the WSPQ to the public.

Sharon has a bachelor's degree in Journalism and a master's degree in Counseling and Educational Psychology. She earned certification by the Association for Psychological Type for teaching, administering and interpreting the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), the world's most widely-used personality analysis system. Prior to 1995, she owned a successful book-indexing business. She has also been a free-lance writer, a writing instructor, managing editor of the *Journal of the Medical Association of Georgia*, and as a team-building trainer for businesses and organizations.

She was a founding member in 1972 of the LP of Georgia, and cast a write-in vote for the LP's first presidential candidate. She has served the LPGA in many capacities at the state and local level, and has been a delegate to many national LP conventions.

In 1988, she was campaign manager for the LPGA's three Public Service Commission candidates, an historic campaign that won ballot status for the party.

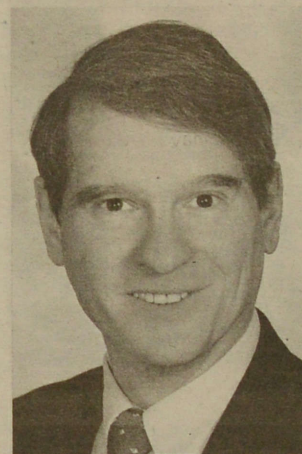
In 1994, she was the LP candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture, receiving over 300,000 votes (23% statewide; 34% in tri-

county metro Atlanta) in a two-way race against Georgia's most entrenched incumbent; her vote total was a record for any Georgia Libertarian.

This "verbal virtuoso" has presented a wide variety of libertarian topics in major newspapers, on the radio and TV, to college classes, before service clubs, and at countless liberty-oriented conventions.

She is author of "The Indivisible Hand Is a Gentle Hand," an article on the beauty of a truly libertarian society.

Sharon lives with her husband, writer and editor Jimmy Harris; she has one grown daughter and three "perfect" grandchildren.



Ken Krawchuk

### Ken Krawchuk

Philadelphia native, Ken Krawchuk, has been a very busy Libertarian for ten years, running for public office seven times, and holding various positions at state and local levels in the LPPA. He is currently the state chair of the Pennsylvania LP.

He was the first third-party candidate ever to be endorsed by the Pennsylvania NRA when he ran for State Rep in 1994. He ran three times for Abington Township Commissioner ('95, '97, '01), once for U.S. Congress ('00) and twice for Governor ('98 & '02), where he became the first Libertarian to break the 1%-barrier for that office.

Mr. Krawchuk sought the Libertarian nomination for vice-president in 2000, placing third in a field of five; he recently decided against running for president in 2004.

He graduated with honors from Cardinal Dougherty High School in 1971, and in 1975 received a B.S. in Physics from St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia.

A computer programmer since his high school days and later an

independent consultant, he founded the now 15-year-old Ken Krawchuk & Associates, Ltd, an information technology consulting firm. He also owns and operates "Amendment 16", an invoicing service for independent consultants.

He is the lead inventor of U.S. Patent Numbers 5,418,942, 5,564,119, and 5,960,437, titled "System and Method for Managing and Storing Information", a novel integrated database management/operating system, with other related patents pending.

A prolific freelance writer, Krawchuk has been regularly published in *RSVP Magazine* and numerous Libertarian publications. He recently signed a contract to write op-ed columns for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, the city's largest daily (circulation 377,000). He has also been an active and highly-honored member of Toastmasters International since 1997.

He and his wife Roberta have been married over 26 years, and have three grown daughters. In his "spare time" he is an avid whitewater canoeist, a year-round backpacker, and a railroad enthusiast.



John Clifton

### John Clifton

John Clifton is currently the LP state chair in New York. In 2000 he won the nomination (over two other LP contenders) from the LPNY to be their candidate for U.S. Senate, where he ran against Hilary Clinton and Ric Lazio.

The week of his nomination Clifton received a 14-inch profile in the *N.Y. Times*, was covered by the *AP* and was mentioned hourly on news radio stations.

Clifton was the first African-American nominated for statewide office by the NYLP. He of course

See **CLIFTON** Page 2



Poker Face

## POKER FACE TO SHARE STAGE WITH LEGEND JIMMIE VAUGHAN

Added to the bill of the Friday Concert (headlined by Jimmie Vaughan) is the Pennsylvania rock band, Poker Face. Their songs are about love, life and liberty with powerful and poignant lyrics and a rich sound reminiscent of Boston and Pink Floyd.

They played a Freedom Rally at the National Monument in Washington, D.C. in November 2002 before a huge crowd. Lisa

Guliani of *Babel Magazine* subsequently wrote, "...the band is committed to exposing political conspiracies and cover-ups in a very unique way...Poker Face kicked some serious ass in D.C...They've been aptly dubbed 'America's House Band' – and let me tell you, these guys know how to rock the house."

See **POKER FACE** Page 2



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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## POKER FACE From Page 1

Well-known to the LPPA, Poker Face (Paul Topete, Dennis Beidler, Brett Griffiths and Rich Valentine) has played at their state conventions (among many other venues, private and public, in several states) and comes highly recommended by LP activists there.

LP News editor Bill Winter compiled a Top-25 List of liberty-oriented songs for the August 2001 issue. Poker Face's song "Rather Die Than Be Your Slave" made the list. (You can listen to it on their website.)

They have two very comprehensive websites, with all sorts of information, quotes and references to their libertarian political philosophy, including this one: "Patriots are not 'revolutionaries' trying to overthrow the government of the United States. Patriots are 'counter-revolutionaries' trying to prevent the government of the United States from overthrowing the Constitution of the United States." (author unknown)

Lee Hansen of *Umbrellazine* wrote, "I realized that the voice of reason and patriotism wasn't gone, wasn't stilled, wasn't dead – the voice was simply waiting, searching for the hearts and minds and ears that could hear the message once again. Poker Face is the messenger, the carrier of the torch and the channel for the voice of reason in this grave new decade of change."

This is no amateur garage-band. These guys are real pros, with four excellent CD's to their credit. You won't want to miss them! (Please visit [pokerface.com](http://pokerface.com) & [pokerface.org](http://pokerface.org))

## CLIFTON From Page 1

opposes "affirmative action" and also made eminent domain a key issue for reaching out to the black community, as he kicked off his campaign by speaking at a rally on behalf of the bullied St. Luke's Pentecostal Church in New Cassel, which was being threatened with eminent domain takeover by the Town of North Hempstead.

In 1994 he co-founded the Queens LP, chairing that affiliate for three years. In 1999 he ran for a seat on NYC's Community School Board District 28, serving Forest Hills, Kew Gardens and Jamaica (where he resides).

Clifton was born in Georgia but grew up in the NYC area. He attended the Parsons School of Design in Greenwich Village. (Parsons is part of New School University, as is the well-known Actor's Studio of Drama.) While attending this very "liberal" school, he did extensive independent research on his path to becoming a libertarian.

After college he spent six years in the Navy serving on Poseidon and Trident II class submarines. Back as a civilian he continued a path of service by going into social work (now at a supervisory level) in homeless outreach, mental health, drug counseling and foster care prevention.

He is also active in network marketing and real estate investing and he's a certified personal trainer. He is currently editor for the *LPQC News*. He does as much writing and public speaking as he can, promoting libertarianism.

## Barry Hess

Barry Hess grew up and graduated from high school in New Hampshire. He got his degree from Fordham University in New York, studying English, History and Political-Science, and was active in theater and many sports.



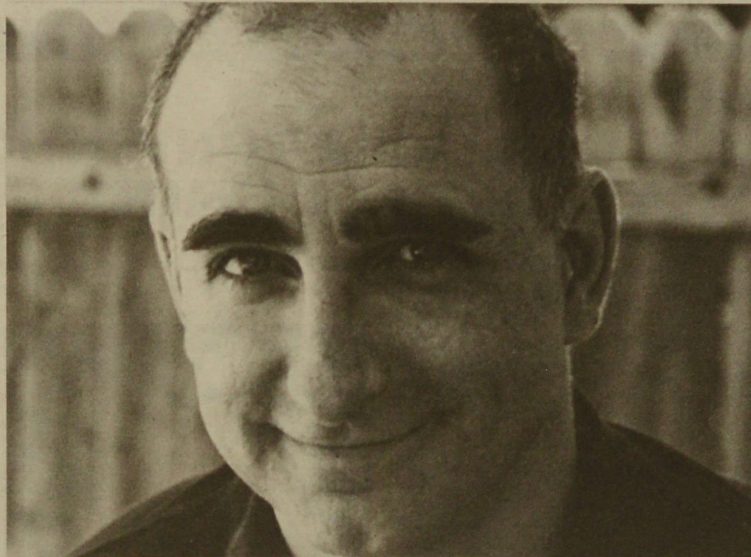
Barry Hess

His political activism started quite early. He worked on Nixon's presidential campaign, and Reagan's in 1980. He had the opportunity to meet the future nominee and president in New Hampshire. After discussing a number of topics, it was actually Ronald Reagan who told Hess that he sounded more like a Libertarian!

Not sure what that meant, Reagan defined to Hess the distinction as "holding government to the same standard of moral accountability that you would hold an individual." That statement rang true so Hess set out to research this "libertarian" thing. He says it took a while but, "the more I learned, the more I realized that I truly was a Libertarian, and damn proud of it!"

This successful Arizona businessman and writer may be best known to Libertarians as one of the presidential candidates in 2000. After campaigning in 43 states he lost in Anaheim, but says that it provided a great opportunity to learn the ropes and meet the LP leadership. He transferred his momentum into a race for U.S. Senate that same year.

He parlayed his extensive campaign experience and connections into his race for



Dean Cameron

Arizona Governor in 2002. He spoke at more than 325 events and was asked to write for several influential publications and on-line news sites.

Says Hess, "It became a pivotal election for us in AZ, receiving extensive publicity, with all four of our debates (4 candidates) broadcast nationally. The Arizona LP was finally, firmly on the map and a force to be reckoned with!"

While sticking to a "no compromise" position on freedom issues, he has made a name for himself in Arizona politics, including front-page articles in prominent publications. He is one of a 21-member board of the AZ Secretary of State's HAVA (Help

America Vote Act).

[He was recently the only non-Republican invited to a local GOP Christmas party. Barry, a vocal opponent of BCRA, says that (AZ Senator) John McCain avoided him at the party!]

Barry Hess is currently the vice-chair of the AZLP.

## Dean Cameron

"Hey, you're that guy!"

A quote taken from a fan site reads, "He's hilarious, and it's obvious that it comes natural[ly] to him." Many people may recognize him, but usually don't know his name. So actor/comedian Dean Cameron has the dubious

distinction of being known "that guy" from "those movies."

Just some of the ("B") movies you may have seen him in are *Summer School* (1987), *Bad Dreams* (1988) *Rockula* (1990), *Men At Work* (1990), *Ski School* (1991), *Sleep With Me* (1994), *Kicking and Screaming* (1995), *Highball* (1997), *Hi-Life* (1998), plus a civil war zombie movie with Billy Bob Thornton and Matt LeBlanc and "others you'd recognize if you're up too late watching cable," says Cameron.

Some of his television work includes a recurring role on Mr. Sterling, guest appearances on *Will & Grace*, *ER*, *Mad About You*, *Felicity*, *Any Day Now*, and regular roles on *Fast Times*, *Spencer* and *They Came From Outer Space*.

Cameron's been the voice for three years of PG&E (Pacific Gas and Electric, for those not on the west coast). He also plays bass for a rock band, The Thornbirds, which should have a CD out any day now.

He does a two-person show detailing his correspondence with evil Nigerian 419 Scammers. He says you can officially "stalk" him at [deancameron.com](http://deancameron.com). He also helped develop a web service, [tightcircle.com](http://tightcircle.com).

He is the inventor of The Bill of Rights - Security Edition ([securityedition.com](http://securityedition.com)), a pocket-sized metallic version of the Bill of Rights, for presenting to airport screeners (in this time of the Patriot Act) and declaring, "Here, take my rights!" He will be talking about this and what it's like being a Libertarian in Hollywood.

## AWARDS HONORING LIBERTARIAN PARTY MEMBERS

For several years, three awards have been presented at our National Conventions to Libertarian Party members who have exemplified the qualities of great activism, communication and leadership.

These three awards are:

The SAMUEL ADAMS Award – for the LP member who has been the *most effective activist* in building the national, state, and/or local parties, organizing outreach projects, running as a candidate, or serving as a campaign manager.

The THOMAS PAINE Award – for the LP member who has been the *most effective communicator* of Libertarian ideas and values, through written (and/or published) or spoken communication.

The THOMAS JEFFERSON Award (this is the Libertarian Party's highest honor) – for the LP member whose lifetime

achievements merit the highest honors that best exemplify *outstanding leadership, character, and dedication* to the goals of the Libertarian Party.

All members of the Libertarian Party are eligible to submit nominees. You may of course "lobby" your fellow members, but *any LP member may nominate only ONE person for each award category* (no "stuffing the ballot box"). Send your nominations to me (e-mail or "snail"-mail, see below) *before April 1, 2004. You must include your name and your city and state.*

The top three nominees in each award category will be announced in April. All

members who have pre-registered for the Convention will be able to vote (exact

procedure TBA) for one person from among the top three nominees for each award.

The three winners will be announced – and the awards presented – at the Grand Banquet on Sunday night at the Convention.

This information, along with a list of past recipients, will be the Convention web page. You may also contact me if you have any questions.

Yours in Liberty,

Sean Haugh

1821 Hillandale Rd  
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# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

[www.LP.org/conv/2004](http://www.LP.org/conv/2004)

## INTENSIVE CAMPAIGN TRAINING WORKSHOP

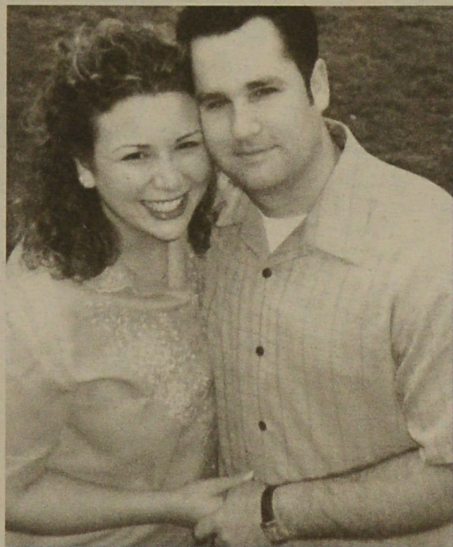
Thursday, May 27, 9am-5pm

If you are a **serious** candidate or campaign manager, involved in a **winnable** race (primarily local, non-partisan) you **must** attend this intensive, full-day Campaign Training Workshop, run by a highly-qualified team of campaign strategists!

Conducting the workshop will be the professional team of Chad and Kori Crow of KC Strategies, a full-service political consulting firm based in central Texas. Joining them will be Fred Collins and Barbara Goushaw-Collins, two members of "The Troika" of Michigan, which has the *best record ever in the LP for winning local non-partisan races*.

Chad and Kori Crow have run campaigns for more than 50 candidates, worked with issue-advocacy campaigns, assisted non-profit groups, and produced marketing plans for private sector businesses. They offer a wide range of services including political consulting, direct mail, television and radio advertising, campaign literature, polling and research.

The result of merging their individual businesses after their marriage, KC Strategies was founded on the belief that every campaign – large or small – deserves personal attention from start to finish, and the best way to do that is to create a plan that



Kori & Chad Crow



Barbara Goushaw



Fred Collins

maximizes their clients' campaign dollars to most efficiently and effectively reach their constituents.

Kori earned a B.A. in Communications from Concordia University in Austin. She also attended Concordia's sister school in Chicago, and interned with the Illinois Legislature and the Chicago City Council.

Her political career began at the State Capitol in Austin, TX, working for State Rep. Mike Krusee of Williamson County. After working on various campaigns in Central Texas, she formed her own consulting firm to devise campaign plans and advise candidates in judicial and local races.

Chad Crow received a B.B.A.

from the Southwest Texas State University School of Business in San Marcos. He got his start in politics working on Ron Paul's campaign for Congress in 1996. Following the election he continued as a member of Dr. Paul's Congressional staff.

During his service to Congressman Paul, Chad ran for a seat on the Austin City Council. The 10,000 votes he received were not enough to unseat a powerful incumbent. But the defeat was a blessing in disguise, as it paved the way for Chad to launch his own direct-mail company that specialized in political fundraising and voter-contact mail.

Barbara Goushaw burst on the National LP scene as campaign

manager for the 1994 Jon Coon for U.S. Senate campaign, which received national recognition and was awarded the "Most Effective Campaign" designation from the National LP.

She completed the Campaign Management Extension Program at U.C. Davis in 1997, as well as the prestigious fellowship in the Michigan Political Leadership Program at Michigan State University in 1998. She is an accomplished campaign manager and fundraiser, and has traveled the country on behalf of the National LP, training candidates and campaign managers.

At the 1998 National Convention, she brought the delegates to their feet with her no-

compromise right-to-keep-and-bear-arms speech "Handguns Are a Girl's Best Friend." And she was the Keynote speaker at the 2000 National Convention, moving the delegates to tears (and a national TV audience to call the LP 800 #) with her "Welcome Home" speech.

Fred Collins is in his *second* term as a City Councilman in Berkley, MI (suburban Detroit). He was re-elected *without opposition* 2001, and is contemplating a run for mayor next time!

Known throughout his community as a tax fighter and watchdog of his constituents' tax dollars, Fred has successfully

See **WORKSHOP** Page 4

## 2004 LP CONVENTION SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

	THURSDAY, MAY 27	FRIDAY, MAY 28	SATURDAY, MAY 29	SUNDAY, MAY 30	MONDAY, MAY 31
7					
8		Breakfast with Speaker	Breakfast with Speaker	Breakfast with Speaker	
9		Welcome/Keynote	Speakers		
10	Campaign Training Workshop (9am-5pm)	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Business Sessions	Business Sessions
11		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
12	Committee Meetings (times TBD): Platform Bylaws Credentials LNC				
1		Lunch with Speaker	Lunch with Speaker	Lunch Break (TBD)	Lunch Break
2		Speakers	Speakers		
3		Business Sessions	Business Sessions Presidential Debate (end time TBD)	Business Sessions	LNC Meeting
4		Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshops (2 tracks)	Workshop (1 track) "Libertarianism 101"	
5					
6	Dinner Break	Dinner Break (Torch Club Reception - invitation only)	Dinner Break (Liberty Pledge Reception - invitation only)	Pre-Banquet Reception	
7	"Welcome" Reception Munchies • No-Host Bar Live Music	Concert featuring Jimmie Vaughan, Poker Face + many other great musicians!	Possible off-site event hosted by Georgia LP	Grand Banquet Honoring LP Presidential Candidates + Many Others (dancing afterward)	
8					
9					
10					
11					

### Note:

Some times may be revised slightly as needed.



## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

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www.LP.org/conv/2004



## WORKSHOP From Page 3

fought to keep wasteful spending out of the budget, championed volunteerism as the replacement for city-provided services, and caused the defeat of referendums opposing medical marijuana.

He also uses his political clout to promote the LP agenda at the state level; he was instrumental in the lobbying effort by the Michigan LP to pass legislation which eliminated the hated "top-of-ticket" ballot access law. And he serves as senior advisor to other elected councilmen in Michigan, guiding freshmen through the morass of governance and local politics.

Fred has a successful construction business and, before becoming his business manager, Barb was a highly successful salesperson dealing in computer and other office-machine consumables.

(Libertarian colleagues for many years, Fred and Barb will be celebrating their one-year wedding anniversary just prior to the Convention!)

The charge for this invaluable all-day professional workshop is \$100 for one person (candidate or campaign manager) or \$150 for a candidate/campaign manager team. Admission is limited; sign up through the Convention webpage.



by Trevor M. Southerland

## LIBERTARIAN COLLEGE STUDENT

I would like to encourage all College and "younger" Libertarians to attend the 2004 National Convention in Atlanta.

Myself, along with Nancy Neale, Jim Lark and others look forward to seeing you all there. We are currently in the process of organizing two separate events specifically designed for students. One will be an informal get together to exchange ideas and get to know one another. The second, more formal session, will be to help us develop our material for use in our colleges throughout the nation.

I hope you will come to Atlanta and show that the LP is the party of youth, and that we will continue to grow and prosper.

Please feel free to contact me; I always enjoy hearing from fellow college Libertarians and I so look forward to meeting you all in May.

In Liberty,  
Trevor M. Southerland

TrevSouthern@aol.com  
Pres., Campus Libertarians, Tenn.-Chattanooga  
Editor, Voice of Freedom, LPTN  
Secretary, Hamilton Co. Libertarian Party, TN



Convention "Liberty Works" logo, newsletter design &amp; layout by Upton Ethelbah (www.UnityDesign.net).

## LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2004 NATIONAL CONVENTION

## Early Bird REGISTRATION ORDER FORM

MAY 27-31, 2004

MARRIOTT MARQUIS • ATLANTA, GEORGIA

www.LP.org/conv/2004



## CONVENTION PACKAGE OPTIONS

WITH Early Bird PRICES.

GOOD THRU MARCH 31, 2004

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

## 1 FILL IN CONTACT INFORMATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name as you would like it to appear on badge: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2 PLEASE CHECK PACKAGE OF CHOICE

These are Early Bird prices, good through March 31, 2004.

- ☐ Gold Package \$329
- ☐ Silver Package \$239
- ☐ Bronze Package \$149
- ☐ Speaker Package \$89
- ☐ Basic Package \$49
- ☐ Jimmie Vaughan Concert \$25

Order Total:

\$

## 3 PAYMENT OPTIONS

Check enclosed payable to "Libertarian Party" ☐

Visa ☐ MC ☐ AmEx ☐ Discover ☐

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(if different from above)

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 4 THREE EASY WAYS TO REGISTER!

## MAIL TO

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

## ONLINE

www.LP.org/conv/2004

## FAX

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

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

## ATLANTA MARRIOTT MARQUIS HOTEL RESERVATIONS:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"A la carte" meal events will be available for purchase at a later date once we determine exactly which speaker will be at which meal event.

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

NOTE: this form is for purchasing admission to Convention events and activities; becoming a credentialed Delegate is a separate process; contact your state party. (2/04)



# 50-State Ballot Status... Or an Electoral Also-Ran In the 2004 Election? It's Up to You to Decide.

## Dear Libertarians,

Currently, the LP presidential ticket is qualified for the ballot in 27 states, more than any other minor party.

While many state parties have achieved ballot status strictly through their own resources, the Libertarian National Committee has identified 11 remaining states that will likely need at least some help from the LNC. Of those, three need immediate petitioning help.

Additionally, two state parties, Ohio and Maryland, may need financial help to fight in court arbitrary and capricious decisions by state government bureaucrats who appear intent on keeping us off the ballot. So, here is our immediate action plan:

**(1) South Dakota** — We are doing a party petition (8,364 valid signatures) in SD. This will allow us to run candidates other than the presidential ticket. It will qualify us for the ballot in 2004 and 2006.

And, if we succeed in making the ballot, it will give impetus to a state bill that would change the requirement for ballot access retention from 2.5% of the last vote for Governor to 2.5% of the last vote for any statewide office, which the LP has done in the past.

The SDLP is too small to complete the petition itself. With an April 1 petition deadline, we're sending paid petitioners to South Dakota ASAP.

**(2) Oklahoma** — The Oklahoma Constitution says that elections in that state "shall be free and equal." (I'm not kidding.) Oklahoma ballot laws have been a curse for the LP for over 30 years.

Example: for any office other than President, if you are an Independent, a \$500 filing fee will get you on the ballot —

but *not* if you are a registered Libertarian. Then, you are barred from the ballot, except if the LP has gathered 51,781 valid signatures to qualify as a political party.

If we do not qualify as a political party again in 2004, the state will delete the Libertarian Party designation of all such voters in Oklahoma, so we won't then have the standing to sue to permanently change the unconstitutional ballot laws in Oklahoma.

Also, *Ballot Access News* publisher Richard Winger thinks the chance of winning this lawsuit, with the LP being placed on the OK ballot by the court, is very good — provided that we make a good faith petitioning effort of about 20,000 signatures.

We currently have 3,500 volunteer signatures (and will get more), so that means about 15,000 paid signatures have to be gathered in Oklahoma ASAP.

**(3) West Virginia** — This has historically been a really difficult ballot access state because of its "primary screen out." In the past, voters were committing a "crime" if they signed another party's petition and voted in the West Virginia Primary (very important because of the dominance of the Democratic Party there).

This really made it tough to get a Governor candidate on the ballot because the petition deadline for Governor was Primary Day (the second Tuesday in May),

while the Presidential petition wasn't due until August 1.

That meant that to sign a petition for our Gubernatorial candidate, people had

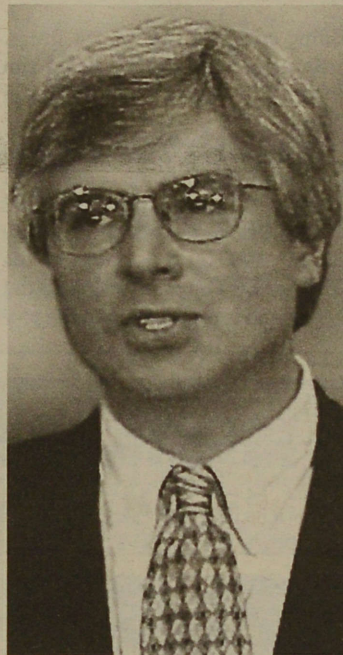
to give up their possible future vote in the West Virginia Primary. It was much easier getting people who had not voted in the Primary to sign a petition after the Primary, because they weren't giving up anything to sign at that point.

But, getting a Governor candidate on the ballot is very important, because the only way to retain ballot access in WV is to earn at least 1% of the vote for Governor.

Our 1996 Governor candidate, Wallace Johnson, did that. But, in a

five-way race in 2000, we earned 0.86% of the vote for Governor, coming up just short. In 2004, it will almost certainly be a four-way race for Governor, and it is very likely we will earn more than 1% again — if we get Simon McClure on the ballot.

The WV legislature repealed the "primary screen out" law, but not the requirement that petitioners warn petition signers about the law. Yup. You read that right. We are asking a federal judge to issue an injunction to end the verbal warning requirement, which would make it much easier to petition in WV. We're likely to win the injunction, but, win or lose, we need to get a paid petitioning effort into West Virginia ASAP.



**In Ohio**, the Secretary of State's office — without validating a single signature of the 55,000 turned in — just ruled that the Ohio LP's petition was invalid because of minor cosmetic changes to the prescribed petition form we made to make the petition more user friendly.

We're going to sue not just to get the Ohio LP and dozens of candidates on the ballot in 2004. We're going to sue to completely undo the unconstitutional ballot access laws of Ohio — the worst such laws of any major state.

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

Are you as mad as hell yet? Or even madder? I am. We're not going to take this — lying down or otherwise.

We're ready to fight back — in these states and more states soon — but we can only do so with your generous financial support.

Please send a check ASAP to the Libertarian Party Ballot Access Fund, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037, or contribute via the LP's website at [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org). Thank you very much.

With your help, we can achieve 50-state ballot status again in 2004 ... instead of languishing as an electoral also-ran.

*Bill Redpath*

William Redpath  
LNC Treasurer  
Ballot Access Coordinator



# The Top 10 Libertarian news stories of 2003

Continued from Page 1

the interactive online version of the World's Smallest Political Quiz hit the 2-million mark.

The Quiz — which measures political beliefs on a four-way map (libertarian, liberal, conservative, authoritarian) — is offered by the Georgia-based Advocates for Self-Government ([www.TheAdvocates.org](http://www.TheAdvocates.org)).

"It was exciting because it's a big number," said Advocates' president Sharon Harris. "It makes you aware how many people are seeing it."

**Significance:** Reaching 2 million is not, in itself, a momentous event. It's just a number. However, it has symbolic value.

First, it shows the ongoing importance of the Internet in the libertarian movement. The LP was the first national political party with a website, and was one of the first political groups to use the Web as an effective lobbying tool (with 1999's "Know Your Customer" campaign).

Second, it illustrates the continuing importance of the Quiz. The Quiz is given at fairs, at political events, and on the campaign trail tens of thousands of times a year. As a method of filtering libertarian "maybes" from the "never-gonna-happens," it remains one of the most important tools in libertarians' outreach toolbox. By passing the 2-million mark, the Quiz proved it is winning over the Internet, too.

## 9. The Free State Project selects the "Live Free or Die" state, New Hampshire. (October 2003)

**Recap:** On October 1, the Free State Project (FSP) chose the Granite State as the target of a planned mass migration of liberty-lovers. New Hampshire was selected via a nationwide mail ballot.

The FSP seeks to get 20,000 small-government supporters to move to one state, where they will work to limit the size and cost of government.

**Significance:** The Free State Project (which is not affiliated with the Libertarian Party) is certainly a bold political experiment. FSP members make the argument that traditional libertarian strategies have not been particularly successful. So, they say they will focus on one small state, where a limited number of libertarians can have maximum impact.

Fair enough; liberty-lovers should always be willing to try new tactics. But the jury is out on whether the FSP can succeed. After all, New Hampshire gets 10,000 new residents in an average year. So how much impact will 20,000 libertarians really have? Time will tell.

That said, the selection of New Hampshire represents an important step forward for the FSP. Now, we'll see if they are able to take the next step after that, and the next, and the next.

## 8. Libertarians in Colorado and Massachusetts win one of three local tax cut initiatives. (July and November 2003)



■ The LP-endorsed candidate in the California gubernatorial recall election, Ned Roscoe, ended up winning considerably under 1% of the vote — a demoralizing result for Libertarians.

**Recap:** Libertarians won just one of three local initiatives to curb taxes. In Montrose, Colorado, voters turned thumbs-down on an effort to repeal the town's grocery tax by a 72%-28% margin (July); in Waltham, Massachusetts, a bid to slash property taxes by about 40% was defeated on a 84%-16% vote (November); and in Littleton, Colorado, a grocery tax repeal won by 62%-38% (November).

In each case, Libertarians had spearheaded the petition drives to qualify the initiatives, and the lobbying campaigns to pass them.

**Significance:** Think globally, act locally, says the old political maxim. Libertarians did so with these initiatives, trying to turn the party's anti-tax positions into public policy.

But, along the way, Libertarians learned some tough lessons. First, that politicians and town employees will fight ferociously to protect the taxes that pay their salaries and fund their favorite programs.

Second, that voters aren't as reflexively anti-tax as Libertarians might want to believe; you must convince them that the government services they will give up are worth less than the tax money they will save. In two towns, Libertarians were unable to persuasively make that case. If nothing else, the defeats should be sobering case studies for future Libertarian tax-cutters.

## 7. Two high-profile individuals, Judge James Gray and anti-Brady Bill sheriff Richard Mack, join the LP and announce they will run for office. (February-November 2003)

**Recap:** In February, Orange County Superior Court Judge James Gray became a Libertarian Party member. Gray, the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It*, is one of the nation's

leading critics of the War on Drugs. In November, he said he would run for the U.S. Senate in California in 2004.

In June, Richard Mack joined the Libertarian Party. While a sheriff in Arizona, Mack had sued the federal government to overturn the Brady Bill. In 1995, on a 5-4 vote of the U.S. Supreme Court, he won a partial victory, and became a hero to the pro-

Second Amendment movement. In November, Mack said he would run for governor of Utah in 2004.

**Significance:** Name recognition, credibility, and the ability to inspire volunteers are the currency of politics. As prominent figures in the drug reform and gun-rights movements, Gray and Mack possess that currency in abundance.

This doesn't mean they are shoos for the U.S. Senate or the governor's mansion. They must still be considered (very) long-shot candidates, and their ability to raise the kind of money it will take to compete effectively is uncertain.

Still, both Gray and Mack have the potential to run dynamic, high-profile campaigns — and to make the LP a more significant political force in California and Utah.

## 6. The U.S. Supreme Court upholds the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. (December 2003)

**Recap:** On a 5-4 vote announced on December 10, the nation's highest court ruled that the major provisions of the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) were constitutional.

The justices upheld a ban on large soft money contributions to political parties, and approved a ban on "issues ads" broadcast by interest groups on radio or TV within 60 days of a general election.

In its ruling, the court said that eliminating the "appearance of corruption" justifies unprecedented government limitations on free speech and political donations.

The LP blasted the decision, with

LP National Chair Geoffrey Neale calling it an "all-out assault on the right of every American to engage in the political process."

**Significance:** The ban on soft money means the LP won't be able to accept the kind of large financial contributions that might allow it to compete more effectively against the entrenched Big Government parties in Washington, DC.

And the ban on issues ads means that the Supreme Court has, for the first time, allowed Congress to make it a crime to engage in explicitly political speech.

There's no getting around it: The court's ruling was a damaging setback for the LP and for every American — except incumbent politicians.

## 5. Libertarian Party candidates win 25 local races in the Fall elections. (November 2003)

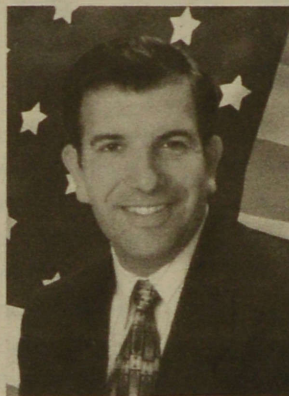
**Recap:** In eight states, 25 LP candidates were elected to public office on November 4. Highlights included three city council incumbents re-elected in Michigan; four city council candidates who were victorious in Indiana; and two city council candidates elected in Washington state.

In all, 21 of 25 winners won high-level local offices such as city council, county council, or city supervisor. The victories will allow those LP members to have "a positive impact on many American's lives," said LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen.

**Significance:** In the past, LP candidates have shown they can win lower-level local offices like justice

See TOP 10 Page 17

## Michael Badnarik for President The Second Amendment Candidate



The Second Amendment is the most important clause in any of the founding documents, for the following reason: you will be far more successful protecting your free speech rights using a gun than you will be protecting your gun rights using eloquent dialogue. That's why **Michael Badnarik** supports the immediate repeal of the 20,000+ unconstitutional federal gun laws. This is a keystone of Michael's **Bill of Rights Enforcement** platform. The day Michael is sworn in as President of the United States of America is the day all fifty states will be free to enact "Vermont-style" carry laws.

Learn more about Michael's platform:

[www.badnarik.org](http://www.badnarik.org) (512) 799-8200

### Endorsing Michael Badnarik for President:

**L. Neil Smith**, author and adamant, long-time Second Amendment supporter

**Thomas L. Knapp**, Publisher, Rational Review, gun rights advocate

**Jimmie Vaughan**, legendary Grammy-award winning blues guitarist

**Kathryn A. Graham**, Texas director, Armed Females of America; CHL Instructor

**David Rostcheck**, organizer of CounterAttack 2003 gun rights conference

**John Barnes**, Vice-chairman of New Hampshire Libertarian Party

## Lighting the fires of liberty, one heart at a time!

Political ad paid for and authorized by the Badnarik for President campaign, PO Box 841, Buda, TX, 78610



# The top news stories of '03

Continued from Page 17

of the peace, inspector of elections, and library board member.

While those offices may be good stepping stones to higher office in the future, they don't have much impact on the day-to-day lives of voters. City council members do, since they directly affect the issues voters care about most: Education, taxes, crime, roads, and so on.

The victories in November show that Libertarians were able to offer compelling, attractive solutions to the problems that voters care about. More importantly, the 25 November winners were able to validate the reason why the LP exists as a political party: To get Libertarians elected to public office.

## 4. LP candidates fizzle in the California gubernatorial recall election. (October 2003)

**Recap:** The California recall election was the must-watch political story of 2003. In the end, even allegations of serial groping couldn't stop Arnold Schwarzenegger — dubbed "The Governor" — from winning the October 6 election.

Buried in the long list of candidate results were two Libertarians: Ned Roscoe (endorsed by the California LP, who finished 33rd of 135 candidates) and Jack Hickey (47th). Add a non-LP candidate who ran on the Libertarian label, and Libertarian candidates won only 5,200 votes of the 9 million cast. For the LP, it was a demoralizing result.

**Significance:** It's difficult to draw any sweeping conclusions since this election was so unusual. It was only the second successful gubernatorial recall election in U.S. history — and it featured more contenders than a Miss World contest.

That said, some universal political truths were confirmed: You can't be a major player in a statewide election if you spend less than \$1,000, run on an apparently unpopular issue (smokers' rights), and have little name recognition. The LP's flagship candidate, Ned Roscoe, was guilty of all those political sins, and his vote total suffered because of it.

Those insights may not matter in the next recall election that features 135 candidates (since there probably won't be one), but may help other LP candidates from getting similarly "Roscoed" in statewide races in 2004.

## 3. The Libertarian Party overcomes a major cash crunch. (November 2003)

**Recap:** In November, the LP swapped its traditional red, white, and blue hues for another color:

**IN THREE STATES,  
the wins are proof  
that the LP is the  
best protection  
against tax-hungry  
Republicans  
and Democrats.**

Black. As "in the black" financially.

After struggling for two years with budget deficits and past-due bills, the party finally paid off its vendor debt and put some money in the bank. The LP had been suffering from a fall-off in membership and a related decrease in fundraising since late 2001. At its worst, the party had unpaid liabilities of about \$400,000.

The party managed to work its way out of the predicament by cutting costs and raising additional money.

"The members who gave money are genuine American heroes," said LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen. "It was humbling to see the level of

commitment our members have for this party."

**Significance:** The LP wasn't the only not-for-profit organization to struggle in the wake of 9/11. According to experts, most smaller political organizations saw donations fall sharply.

However, the LP may have suffered more than most, which limited its ability to support candidates, get on the ballot, and recruit new members. Now, although the party is by no means flush, it is in a better position to potentially have an impact on the 2004 election.

## 2. Libertarians around the nation protest the looming war in Iraq. (January to March 2003)

**Recap:** When President George W. Bush started threatening to attack Iraq — ostensibly in the name of the "War on Terrorism" — Libertarians showed their disapproval by taking to the streets.

From January to March, Libertarians participated in marches, debates, and rallies against a U.S. invasion of Iraq in at least nine states: California, Nevada, Oregon, New Mexico, Washington, DC, Illinois, Tennessee, Vermont, and New York.

While admitting that it was

strange to be marching alongside big-government leftists, Brendan Kinney in Vermont said they accomplished an important goal: Letting people know that Libertarians don't think the government should "initiate force against nations that do not pose a direct and immediate threat."

**Significance:** Libertarians have no sympathy for a murderous dictator like Saddam Hussein. However, Libertarians respect the U.S. Constitution, support limited government, and understand that a non-interventionist foreign policy is the best way to protect America.

For those reasons, LP National Chair Geoffrey Neale issued a statement on March 20 (just after the U.S. government launched military action against Iraq) that called for the nation to again embrace "the traditional American values of peace, freedom, and military non-intervention."

Given the rising number of U.S. deaths in Iraq — even after Bush declared "victory" — and the simmering public doubt about the war, Libertarians may yet turn out to be on the popular side of this issue.

## 1. Libertarians help save taxpayers \$3.3 billion in tax initiative victories in Florida, Alabama, and Oregon. (January, September, and November 2003)

**Recap:** The LP hit the anti-tax trifecta in 2003, playing an important role in the defeat of three pro-

posed tax hikes. Libertarian activists helped thwart a \$1.3 billion "infrastructure sales surtax" in Brevard County, Florida (November 4), a \$1.3 billion tax hike in Alabama (September 9), and a \$725 million income tax increase in Oregon (January 28).

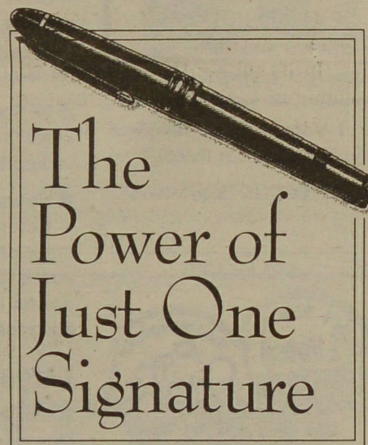
In each case, the state LP was part of a broad alliance that fought the tax increases. Libertarians also contributed hands-on help: They did media interviews, handed out fliers, organized meetings, and posted signs. In Oregon, the LP took the lead role in the campaign, prompting state LP Executive Director Richard Burke to say, "The Libertarian Party won the campaign."

**Significance:** With the victories, the LP burnished its reputation as the taxpayer's best friend.

The wins also proved that Libertarians can have a profound influence on statewide politics. In those three states, Libertarian candidates in 2004 will be able to point to their work in 2003 as proof that the LP is not only an effective political force, it is also the best protection against tax-hungry Republican and Democratic politicians.

The bottom line: Thanks to the Libertarian Party, \$3.3 billion will remain in Americans' wallets and pocketbooks — instead of in the grasping hands of politicians.

For Libertarians, that represented 3.3 billion reasons to cheer their accomplishments in 2003.



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

**If so, you can help change that by joining the Libertarian Party!** We're the only political party that is fighting — with 100% of our energy — to lower taxes, to reduce the size of government, and to defend the Bill of Rights. With your support — and your proud signature on this membership form — we can work harder than ever to build a powerful political force for freedom.

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

## Libertarian Party Membership!

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

I'll receive 12 monthly issues of LP News, and a membership card. I'd like to be a Libertarian Party member in the following category:

- ☐ \$1,000 **Life Member**
- ☐ \$500 **Patron Member**
- ☐ \$250 **Sponsoring Member**
- ☐ \$100 **Sustaining Member**
- ☐ \$25 **Basic Member**

**The Libertarian Party is the party of principle.** To publicly affirm what we believe—and to ensure that our party never strays from our principles—we ask our members to proudly sign this statement:

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

SIGNATURE REQUIRED FOR MEMBERSHIP

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

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## THE REVIEWS ARE IN FOR THE LP'S OUTREACH NEWSPAPER, *THE LIBERTARIAN VIEWPOINT*:

**'OUTSTANDING'**

— RICHARD G. REED, CALIFORNIA

**'GREAT'**

— DAVID MOFFETT, KANSAS

**'EXCELLENT'**

— LOUIS DOOLEY, FLORIDA

**'PERFECT'**

— DEB HAMM, COLORADO

**'INTELLIGENT'**

— SARAH K., WISCONSIN

**'SUPERB'**

— RICHARD KERR, WEST VIRGINIA

**The Libertarian Viewpoint: An 8-page, full-color outreach newspaper!** Contains articles on crime, poverty, corporate welfare, foreign policy, and more. Add to that fascinating "Fact Files," glowing media quotes about the Libertarian Party, and full-color photographs, and you have a professional-looking, eye-catching newspaper that asks readers to "imagine a better America." Includes a membership response form. **Sample: \$1 each ★ 100 for \$25 ★ 1,000 for \$100 ★ Includes free shipping. ★ Call for prices for bulk quantities (10,000+)**

### LP Literature & Books

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

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

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

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

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

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

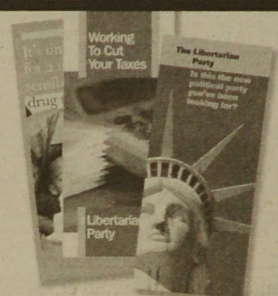


#### 2-COLOR

- Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again
- Ending the Welfare State
- What Happened to Your Family Budget?
- Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners

#### 4-COLOR!

- Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?
- Working to Cut Your Taxes
- It's Time for a More Sensible Drug Policy



2-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$7 for 100 / 4-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$10 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2000: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2000) and a comprehensive two-page bibliography (featuring more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100**

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

#### Bumperstickers

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

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

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

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

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

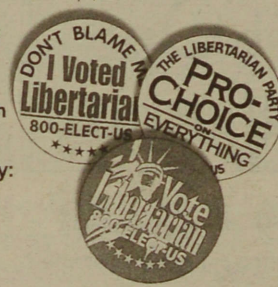
#### Buttons

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

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

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



### Tools for Campaigning

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

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

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

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

#### Large Banners

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



## ORDER FORM

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

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

#### Bumper Stickers

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

#### Banners

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

#### Tools for Campaigning

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

#### Books for Sale

_____	<b>Why Government Doesn't Work</b>
_____	By Harry Browne
_____	<b>Libertarianism In One Lesson</b>
_____	By David Bergland

#### Buttons

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

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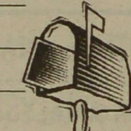
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Washington, DC 20037



# West Virginia Libertarians win suit against 'irrational' ballot access law

**W**est Virginia Libertarians received an early Christmas present when a federal judge in Clarksburg struck down a confusing state law that made it more difficult to convince voters to sign ballot-access petitions.

On December 23, U.S. District Court Judge Irene Keeley ordered the secretary of state's office to stop enforcing a law that made it illegal for state residents who sign a third-party candidate's petition to vote in the state's next primary election.

In 1999, the state legislature had dropped the legal penalties for signing such a petition and then voting in a primary — but kept the language that required prospective petition signers to be told they couldn't vote in the primary.

As a result, West Virginia residents were reluctant to sign ballot-access petitions for third-party candidates, which created an unfair burden for alternative parties trying to qualify for the state ballot, ruled Keeley.

## A legal fiction

The law as written is "arguably a legal fiction," she wrote, and creates "irreparable harm" to the First Amendment rights of third-party candidates.

"The irrationality of this law is patent and militates against its necessity," she wrote.

In most states, petitioners can usually collect one signature for every three or four voters approached,

**"THIS WILL BROADEN  
the spectrum of  
political debate,  
and the choice of  
political philosophies  
people can vote for."**

—Richard Kerr

Libertarians had testified in court in December. But in West Virginia, because of the so-called primary screen-out law, they frequently had to ask 20 or 30 people to get one signature.

LP State Chair Richard Kerr told the Associated Press that he was "delighted" with the ruling.

"This will broaden the spectrum of political debate, and it will broaden the choice of political philosophies that people can vote [for]," he said.

In a minor setback for the LP, the judge also upheld another provision of the law that requires petition circulators to obtain credentials from the state before collecting signatures.

That requirement helps avoid election fraud and lets petitioners know they will be held accountable for their behavior, wrote Keeley.

However, Keeley said the state cannot require petitioners to put personal information — such as an ad-

dress or telephone number — on the credential badges they must wear when soliciting signatures.

Kelley also said that petitioners must be allowed to apply for credentials by phone or fax, rather than being required to apply in person.

The in-person rule placed "substantial obstacles in the paths of volunteer canvassers, who are the lifeblood of minor-party campaigns," she wrote.

The West Virginia LP had filed a lawsuit against the law on August 29. In the lawsuit, they said the laws violate the First and Fourteenth amendments, which protect the rights of free speech and free association.

On December 5, Kerr and would-be LP gubernatorial candidate Simon McClure testified against the primary notification provision in court. They argued that the intent of the law was to make it harder for third-party challengers to qualify for the ballot.

## Near monopoly

"The whole process of making it difficult is to preserve the near monopoly the two parties have, and to discourage the introduction of new ideas," Kerr told the Associated Press. "[The politicians in power] find it annoying when a non-Republican or non-Democrat is on the ballot."

To qualify for the ballot, the LP must collect signatures from registered voters equal to 2% of the votes cast for governor in the last election — or about 13,000 signatures.

## POLITICS 2004

### Watching Congress; rapping libertarians

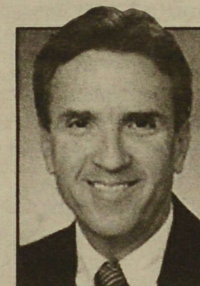
■ In Montana, **Stan Jones** has announced that he will run for governor in 2004. In Utah, **Charles Bonsall** will be a candidate for State Representative (District 49). In Vermont, **Hardy Macia**, a past chair of the Grand Isle Selectboard, said he will run for governor. In Illinois, **Jake Witmer** filed to run for U.S. House (4th District). In Ohio, **Jack Null** will run for U.S. House (7th District). In Kansas, **Rob Hodgkinson** has filed to run for State Representative (District 27). In Texas, Tech Professor Emeritus **Richard "Chip" Peterson** said he will be a candidate for U.S. House (19th District).

■ At the Michigan LP's Liberty Fest on November 20, the party handed out its annual Defender of Liberty awards. Winning the Promoter of Liberty award was **Jeff Steinport**, while **Greg Dirasian** earned the Producer of Liberty Award, and **Joseph P. Overton** was honored posthumously as the Spokesman for Liberty.

■ In Virginia, **Dana Johansen** was elected Chair of the Fairfax County LP. In Texas, **Dean Tucker** was elected Chair of the Jefferson County LP. In Michigan, the state LP opened a new headquarters office in Lansing on January 1. In West Virginia, **Helen Tucker** was elected State Chair. At the Acton Institute in Grand Rapids, Michigan, **Karen Woods** has been named director of the new Center for Effective Compassion (CEC). In Indiana, **Dave Pendergast** was elected Chair of the LaPorte County LP.

■ **Miscellaneous:** Want to keep up-to-date on Congress? The **Liberty Committee** will track your Senators' and Representative's votes by e-mail. Sign up and, while Congress is in session, you'll receive weekly e-mails listing key votes and upcoming votes. To subscribe, visit: [capwiz.com/liberty/megavote/](http://capwiz.com/liberty/megavote/). In Utah, gubernatorial candidate **Richard Mack** knocked on doors in Salt Lake City on Christmas Day to distribute leaflets protesting the excesses of the the Utah Division of Child and Family Services.

■ **Presidential news:** Former Iowa gubernatorial candidate **Clyde Cleveland**, who had flirted with the idea of seeking the LP's 2004 presidential nomination, now says he will definitely not run. Cleveland said he just started a new job, and will be working on a new book (to be entitled *Green and Free*). In Massachusetts, five contenders for the LP's presidential nomination will appear on the state's March 2 primary ballot: **Jeffrey Diket**, **Ruben Perez**, **Aaron Russo**, **Michael Badnarik**, and **Gary Nolan**.



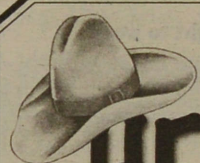
■ Clyde Cleveland is not running.

■ **Pop culture:** Libertarians got dissed in a song from the Long Island white-girl rap trio **Northern State**. In the song "A Thousand Words," (from the CD *Dying in Stereo* on Columbia Records) they note: "I'm a vegetarian, humanitarian, imaginarian, not a libertarian / The country's getting ugly and there's more in store / but don't blame me 'cause I voted for Gore." On the other hand, they also rhyme "Keep choice legal / Snoopy is a beagle," so maybe we shouldn't take them too seriously. ABC commentator **John Stossell's** new book, *Give Me a Break*, will be published in February 2004.

■ In California, **Vernon R. Dahl** was elected president of the Oceano Community Services District. In Texas, **Steve Kirby** announced he will run for U.S. House (19th District). In West Virginia, **Simon McClure** has filed pre-candidacy papers to run for governor. In Colorado, **Travis Nicks** has filed to run in a special February 24 election for Arapahoe County Clerk and Recorder. In Texas, **Kelly Vinson** will be a candidate for County Constable (Precinct 4). In Indiana, **Scott Baker** was appointed to the Elkhart County Convention & Visitors Commission.

■ **Miscellaneous:** The LP is getting academic. A professor at **Rockford College** (Illinois) requested permission to use an October 31, 2000 LP press release ("Police Arrest More People for Marijuana than Murder, Rape, and Robbery Combined") as a classroom handout. In Florida, Brevard County LP Chair **Bruce Wechsler** participated in Cocoa Beach High School's "Operation Voter Education" on November 26, introducing the Libertarian Party to two classrooms of high school students.

■ In California, **Norm Westwell** coordinated a project that has delivered more than 25,000 pieces of Libertarian literature and voter registration forms to homes in Huntington Beach. In Oklahoma, Libertarians sponsored a musical **LibertyFest 2003** on December 21 to raise money and collect ballot access signatures. The event features bands and singers Rocky Frisco, Tom Skinner and the High Chaperones, Sheri Boot, Larry Spears and the Hapless Romantics, and Don White.



# HELP TEXAS NOW!

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

We must gather more than 80,000 signatures in only 75 days, starting in March, and can only gather them from voters who did not participate in the primary election. We also must read a 73-word statement to every person before they can sign.

This is going to be really tough. We have no choice but to use paid petitioners, at a high rate. Because the window is so short, we must have a lot of funds up front.

## Why is Texas important?

★ Since 1986, we've retained ballot access through election results. In 2002 we fell short.

★ This one petition will give us access to over 2,000 partisan races. Last election we ran over 180 candidates. This time we're shooting for 250.

★ For the last three election cycles, we've

had more Congressional candidates than either the Democrats or the Republicans.

★ In 2000, our six Texas statewide candidates received a total of 4,298,871 votes. (That's not a typo).

★ In 2004, we will succeed in retaining ballot access through the ballot box. We're determined.

★ We're pursuing legal action to ease the barriers to 3rd party petitioning, but that costs money, too!

## Can we count on you?

Since 1986, many Texas members have helped other states get on the ballot. Can we count on your help now?

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

Thanks, y'all!!!





## THE FORUM

# Was the \$820 million invested in the mission to Mars wasted?

**W**hat cost \$820 million and goes thud?  
Answer: NASA's six-wheeled roving robot.

When the taxpayer-funded rover landed safely on Mars late Friday, it sent a tone transmission back to the good ol' USA. Scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory celebrated their achievement with bear hugs and whoops that would do a hyena proud.

But is the project worth a near-billion dollars?

Bearing in mind that our tax dollars are funding such government projects, I have some questions to ask.

### ■ Do Americans really want it?

The cost for the mission is about \$3 for every American. That's every American, from the smallest baby to the eldest senior. If you were to go door to door, asking your neighbors to donate \$3 per household member to "a very important project," they would wonder what you are up to. If you would explain the money will be spent to find life on Mars, you would likely find yourself beset with numerous slamming doors.

Still, considering the cost of the rover project is about one-tenth the price tag of the war in Iraq, some would make the argument that it's

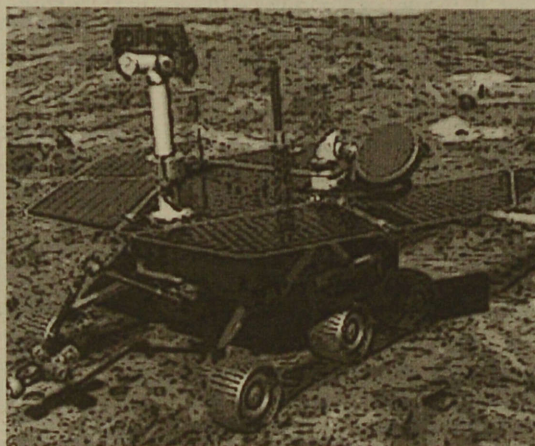
quite a bargain. Others, however, would want to know if the project is really worth that much money. Consider me one of the "others."

### ■ Is it worth the price?

According to NASA, the purpose of the rovers (another is scheduled to land January 24) is more than taking pretty pictures of the rusty Martian landscape. Soil samples will offer scientists a clue as to the red planet's history. Specifically, they want to know if Mars was warmer, wetter, and capable of supporting life.

While the inquiring minds at the government's space agency are to be admired, scientists have been aware of the Mars atmospheric history for decades. They know, for example, that the planet is so cold and dry that it would take less than a second for a drop of water to evaporate. They also know that, in its warmer, wetter youth — 3.5 billion years ago — Mars was host to an abundance of water. So what's new to learn?

One must wonder if NASA's rover project is a gross waste of tax dollars.



### ■ Does the end justify the expense?

Some suggest that, if remnants of life are found on Mars, that, alone, will justify the cost.

And that begs the question, are there traces of life on Mars? Yes, there are.

There is little doubt that rovers Spirit and Opportunity will find evidence of primitive life. Scientists are aware that, as microorganisms have escaped Earth's atmosphere over billions of years, they littered other rocky planets with traces of life.

According to astrophysicist Dr. Hugh Ross, "NASA has a shot at discovering life's remains on Mars." The scientist notes that, "Just as meteors travel from Mars to Earth so also

do they travel from Earth to Mars. Over the past four billion years, at least several billion tons of Earth material, much of it life-carrying material, has landed on Mars."

While the Mars project may find remnants of life, it will be nothing that couldn't be found in our own backyard.

An \$820 million expense to confirm what scientists already know seems, well, ridiculous.

### ■ Could the money be better spent?

Granted, new data from the rovers will add a few pieces to the puzzle. But the mission's real objective has more to do with our national ego than with usable scientific data. As such, the funds could be better spent elsewhere.

One case in point is the school system in Reading, Pennsylvania. Forced to conform to President Bush's "No Child Left Behind Act," educators in that city are unable to meet the cost of educating thousands of Hispanic immigrants. Though designed to shake up the nation's educational systems, many educators view it as a poorly conceived, unfunded shakedown.

Another case in point is the burdensome income tax. According to one economist, the federal government spends \$21,000 per year per American household.

Rather than sending millions to Mars, that money should be returned to the nation's taxpayers. Not only would it ease the tax burden, but it would further boost the economy.

**■ About the author:** *Kenn Gividen is the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Bartholomew County, Indiana. This essay distributed by the Libertarian Writers' Bureau Syndicate.*

## Making your union money work for you

**Y**ou can make your union pay for your favorite Libertarian political cause.

Okay, so you probably think I'm insane. Before you send for the men in the white coats, let me explain.

I've recently accepted employment. In the offer letter, I was informed, "This position is part of a collective bargaining unit represented by the Communications Workers of America (CWA)."

Pay close attention. The wording is important.

I'd heard that there was a way you could avoid paying a union for their political expenditures. In doing my research, I came across the National Right to Work Foundation. Don't panic. Although it sounds hopelessly progressive, it's actually an organization dedicated to helping those who are affected by compulsory unionism.

The problem with unions is that they're empowered by federal law to act as exclusive bargaining agents for employees (if at least half the employees casting ballots vote for that union).

The fact that some employees would rather act as their own bargaining agents, or perhaps engage in a relationship with a competing bargaining agent, doesn't seem to matter much. Nor does the fact that a new employee is bound by the union vote.

### By Skip Pacheco

#### Right to work

Some states have a "Right to Work" law, which makes it illegal for unions to require membership, or to compel dues from employees who don't wish to pay. They're still stuck with the union as an exclusive bargaining agent — but at least they're not paying for an arrangement they are coerced into entering.

For some people, quitting instead of accepting a union, or not taking a job because of it, isn't an option, especially in this economy.

Now, I have good news and bad news. First, the bad news. The state where I live, Massachusetts, isn't a right to work state. Unions can compel employees to pay money to them.

The good news is, they can't compel you to join the union. Remember, I told you to pay attention to the wording. It doesn't say that membership is required, just that the union is the bargaining agent.

In the collective bargaining agreement, they can require all employees to pay money to the union, with non-members generally paying the same amount as members. However, non-members can object to paying for any expense other than those related to collective bargaining, administration, and grievance resolution.

In other words, non-members See **UNION** Page 21

# It's time for a dynamic Libertarian drug policy

**F**or Libertarians (as for others) drugs present a serious dilemma.

On the one hand, America has a serious drug problem. One-third to one-half of jail space around the country is filled with drug-crime inmates. Many lives are lost and others ruined by drug traffic and drug consumption. There is a huge criminal class devoted to the importation and distribution of illegal drugs.

Two solutions have been offered:

1) Increased drug enforcement, with more severe punishment. This will lead to more crimes, criminals, and more casual consumers caught in the legal net.

#### Since the 1920s

What it will not do is eliminate, or even significantly reduce, narcotics and other banned drug consumption. We have been fighting drug consumption since the 1920s, with many things having been tried, and clearly in all of that time we have not found any solutions that have worked.

There have been, in fact, a mod-

erately fluctuating but steady increase in the amount and variety of drugs consumed; i.e. the problem has been getting worse.

2) Decriminalization, the classic Libertarian solution. There are several problems with this solution under current conditions.

First, the majority of Americans are scared to death of this solution. They earnestly believe, in spite of the fact that there was not a massive drug problem when drugs were legal before 1920, that this would lead to a massive increase in drug use.

Second, there is the large group of moral conservatives who feel that consuming drugs is immoral. They see this as not a solution, but another attack on our moral structure. And so it is. But perhaps the alternative, our current war on drugs, is an even greater attack on morality.

But this group believes that decriminalization should not be tried, even if it would reduce crime and

### By Frank W. Johnson

criminal behavior such as shootings and thefts.

However, as illogical this may be, starting from scratch is not an option. Our starting point must be where we are now — with all the myths and misinformation that are out there.

If we look at the drug problem from a dynamic, incremental, rather than a stasis point of view, other solutions open up:

#### Back to the states

The one I favor is that the problem be pushed back onto the states. Pass a federal law allowing the states — and possibly the option of the state's lower government units — to decriminalize any drug they wish, without changing the federal law.

This would allow a variety of dynamic solutions to arise. One state might allow any county or municipality to decriminalize drugs. Another state might do nothing. One state would allow marijuana; another only medical marijuana.

The dynamism arises because this solution is flexible, in geography, as

well as in time. Any state could tighten or loosen any restriction. There would be a dynamic trial-and-error process.

If a state made a serious error (that was clearly an error), it would not be nearly as serious as a federal mistake. It would be easier to fix. On the other hand, you would also have successful solutions to imitate from other states. One size does not fit all!

After a few years, we would see which of these solutions work the best. This would also give the anti-drug constituency — which feels any kind of decriminalization is morally wrong — the option of being locally influential. At the same time, their opposition to legalization might be somewhat lessened, since the actions of another town or state might not bring "disaster" on themselves.

Of course, everyone would have a different opinion of what course of action was best. But that's OK. This dynamism leads to growth and diversity in our society, not stasis.

**■ About the author:** *Frank W. Johnson lives in Beulah, Michigan.*



## THE VOLUNTEER

# Explaining Libertarian conclusions to voters

**W**hen a Libertarian talks to a libertarian-oriented group that already "gets it," then it's okay to talk in terms of conclusions, because people in the audience understand how he/she reached those conclusions.

In a sense, you could say that a Libertarian can speak to such an audience in "shorthand," leaving out stuff that's already mutually understood.

But when a Libertarian candidate speaks to ordinary voters, it's counterproductive to assume that they will understand the process used to reach Libertarian conclusions and claims.

Thus, they will tend to dismiss such conclusions out of hand, because they're too far removed from the voter's reality.

In my opinion, this "blind spot" has been a long-term weakness of Libertarian campaigns for office. If a Libertarian candidate is going to get people to vote for him/her, that candidate should not assume the voters understand why Libertarian positions makes sense — but rather has to make the effort to get those voters to agree that the Libertarian positions make sense.

The inherent problem is that the typical Libertarian candidate has

thought about the various issues so deeply that it's a no-brainer to him/her — the Libertarian position just makes sense!

But John Q. Voter has not thought these things through deeply.

John Q. hears a Libertarian candidate say, "We should end the war on drugs" and thinks, "Whoa, wait just a minute. My kid is in junior high school. I don't want any drug sellers trying to get my kid hooked on drugs. I want the law to go after them and put 'em in jail where they belong."

### Educate voters

Left as is, the above voter is not going to vote for the Libertarian candidate. But what if the Libertarian candidate were to quickly educate the voter about why the Libertarian position would bring the voter the result he actually wants?

Here's an example of what the Libertarian candidate might say:

"Imagine two different ads for the position of drug dealer. The first ad says, 'Wanted, person to sell drugs to junior high school kids. \$60,000 to \$80,000 per year possible.' The second ad says, 'Wanted, person to sell drugs to junior high school kids. \$6,000 per year.' Which position is more likely to get filled?



"By distorting the law of supply and demand, the War on Drugs guarantees huge incomes for drug dealers. Can you thus see how the war on drugs ensures that there will be a continuous supply of people ready to sell drugs to children?"

Notice that the above example ends in a question. This asks the listener to put on their thinking cap in order to answer the question.

I believe that for many Libertarian positions, it's possible to come up with a reasonably brief educational example that shows why the Libertarian position makes sense. And that is the first step to get a voter to actually support a Libertarian position.

■ **About the author:** Rich Putman is a past Minnesota Libertarian Party candidate for U.S. Senate.

# Making your union money work for Libertarian causes

*Continued from Page 20*

don't have to fund the union's political agenda.

Now, non-members are also ineligible to vote in union elections, run for union office, and receive some union services. Non-members are also not subject to union discipline. They can't be fined for crossing a picket line at a strike.

### Political cause

So how does that make your union pay for your political cause?

If you become a non-member and object to paying for the union's political expenditures, you can take the money that you would have given to

the union and send it to your favorite Libertarian candidate or cause.

In fact, why pick one? Donate to as many as you want! It may not seem like a lot, but every little bit counts. If you tell your friends, you may convince some of them to do the same — and the money will start adding up.

My fine print: I'm by no means an expert on unions. For more detailed information, see the National Right to Work Foundation website at: [www.nrtw.org](http://www.nrtw.org).

■ **About the author:** Skip Pacheco was the treasurer for the 2002 Carla Howell for Governor campaign in Massachusetts.

# Neale won't run again for LP national chair

*Continued from Page 3*

do, because my efforts were required elsewhere," he said. "And the money was not there to do anything at all."

For example, he said, "Because we had no money, we've been unable to put anything into the prospecting that will keep us growing. That will change shortly."

Neale said he plans to remain active in the party after he steps down as Chair.

### Plans, dreams

"But the role I will play is not yet clear," he said. "It's quite possible that the role I choose doesn't even exist yet. I have some thoughts, some plans, some dreams. When the time is right, I'll go public with my plans."

For his successor, Neale said he had only one piece of advice: "Grow a thick hide."

"Seriously," he said. "I've received some of the most amazing criticisms over this term, and you just can't let it get you down."

Two candidates have announced they will run for national Chair in 2004: George Phillies, a past Chair of the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association in Massachusetts, and Michael Dixon, a North Carolina resident and At-Large Representative on the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. Stories on both candidates are slated for the March issue of LP News.

The next LP Chair will be elected at the 2004 Libertarian National Convention, to be held May 27-31 in Atlanta, Georgia.

lanta, Georgia.

Neale had been elected national Chair at the 2002 National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. He won the post on the second ballot, defeating Massachusetts residents Eli Israel and George Phillies.

Previously, Neale had served four terms on the Libertarian National Committee. In addition, he had been a member of the National Platform Committee, the National Bylaws Committee, and the National Credentials Committee.

From 1998 to 2002, he served as State Chair of the Texas LP.

Professionally, Neale is the president of a software design and development company and a business consultant.

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## THE EDITOR

# A farewell, and some challenges for the LP

**T**his time it's for real. You may remember that in the October 2002 issue, I wrote a "farewell" column as editor. Alas, reality intervened. The party couldn't find a qualified replacement (and was grappling with money issues), so I agreed to stay on. Fast forward 13 months. A new editor has been hired. His name is Daniel Cloud, and I'll let him introduce himself in the March issue.

So this second farewell column — after 78 monthly issues and a total of 2,172 pages of news, opinions, and analysis — marks the end of my tenure as *LP News* editor. (I promise.)

A Libertarian friend suggested that I use this final column to tell readers what the party needs to do to succeed. He said I could draw on the "wisdom" I've amassed as *LP News* editor. I demurred, telling him that if I knew what it took to catapult the LP into the front-rank of American politics, I'd be shouting it from the rooftops.

Instead, I'd like to talk about what I see as the LP's biggest challenges in the coming years. My thinking on this topic is inspired by the book, *Jack: Straight From the Gut*. It's the 2001 autobiography of Jack Welch, who for 20 years was the phenomenally successful CEO of General Electric.

Welch's model of business success seems applicable to the Libertarian Party (even factoring in the difference between a for-profit business and a political party).

According to Welch, there are three things required to build a "world-class" company: Great people, great products, and a great culture. Here's how this relates to us:

■ **Great people:** In his early days at GE, Welch instituted a harsh meritocracy system: Every year, his managers fired the worst 10% of their employees. It was brutal, but after a few years, it paid off. GE had a top-notch workforce; talented, efficient, and motivated.

Contrast this to the LP. Most of our LP leaders have no professional experience (or training) in politics. And worse, many lack basic management experience and people skills.

Is it a surprise, then, that so many of our affiliate parties do so little? Run so few candidates? Garner so little publicity? And recruit so few members?

**The challenge:** How can we make sure that LP leaders are qualified to do their jobs? And how can we weed out those Libertarians who, through incompetence, inexperience, or personality defects sabotage the party's progress?

■ **Great culture:** Culture is the set of beliefs and values that bind an organization together. In GE, Welch promoted a culture of embracing reality, striving for excellence, and nurturing employees' development.

Contrast this to the LP. Our culture embraces endless debates over obscure doctrinal issues; constant attacks on the motives and activities of other Libertarians; and a fanatical devotion to theoretical principles over real-world political success.

What do our LP cultural elements have in common? *None* contribute to recruiting more members, raising more money, or winning more votes. And all tend to create *conflict* rather than harmony. In other words, they work *against* achieving our party's stated purpose: Moving public policy in a libertarian direction.

**The challenge:** How can we create an LP culture that embraces success, cooperation, and civility? A culture that acts as an accelerator for our progress, rather than as a brake pedal?

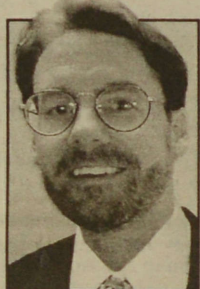
■ **Great products:** This is a bit tougher to translate, since we really offer *three* products: Our candidates (who want votes); the party (members); and our Platform (public acceptance).

Unfortunately, in all three cases, the public is not lining up to buy our product. Most of our candidates get 2% of the vote. Our membership has never risen above 33,000 (and is now falling). Our Platform is largely unknown to voters. The market is speaking. We're not listening.

**The challenge:** How can we craft a Platform that a *majority* of voters will embrace? How can our principles coexist with the need for real-world political success?

Again, I don't know for sure what the LP has to do to break out of the minor-party holding pattern it's been in for 30+ years. I have no magic formula. But I think I do understand the tough questions we must ask ourselves if we're going to make genuine political progress.

Did the challenges I raised make you think? Make you start formulating some answers? Good. That's the first step towards real success for the Libertarian Party. I wish you luck.



**By Bill Winter**

LP NEWS EDITOR

# What's wrong with national service (and what we should do about it)

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

**By Bill Winter**  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**W**ho owns you? That simple question is at the core of any discussion about the morality of national service programs.

If you own yourself, then politicians have no right to force you to perform so-called "public service" jobs or to serve in the military.

On the other hand, if the government owns you, then politicians have every right to tell you what to do. If they decide your country needs you to fight a war, tutor poor children, or plant trees, then you have no right to refuse — since your labor belongs to them.

(Not surprisingly, politicians never justify national service in such stark language.)

For the purposes of this discussion, we'll define national service broadly: Any government-mandated term of service, whether in the military, or for private or government agencies, or as a requirement to graduate from school. We'll also include quasi-national service: Federal programs that pay individuals to "volunteer" to do good works.

No matter how you define it, though, politicians tend to talk about national service in lofty, almost religious, terms.

For example, Senator John McCain (R-AZ) touts national service as a way to solve a "deeper spiritual crisis within our national culture." Former President Bill Clinton says it can "rekindle the spirit of democracy."

## 'Grow to love'

Other national service cheerleaders are equally effusive. The Left-wing *Mother Jones* magazine said it would be a great "social and racial equalizer." Right-winger William F. Buckley, Jr. said it is something Americans would "grow to love."

All this begs the question: If service has so many benefits, why must it be mandatory? Politicians never answer that question. And, given the history of national service, that's not surprising.

The idea that the state has the right to force people into "public service" or to serve in the military has always been irresistible to tyrants and to big-government theoreticians.

For example, in 1848, in *The Communist Manifesto*, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels called for the "estab-

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

lishment of industrial armies" to perform (mandatory) work to help build a worker's paradise.

In the 1940s, Adolf Hitler touted *pflichterfulling*, or "fulfillment of duty." For Germans, that meant an obligation to "serve the community."

It's no coincidence that history's most oppressive ideologies have embraced the concept of national service. As the Ayn Rand Institute's Scott McConnell wrote in the *New American* (June 9, 1997), national service



"is the essential collectivist idea."

Whether in the name of the proletariat, the Fatherland, the king, or God, individuals were considered a "public good" to be used as the government directed.

Curiously, such a collectivist idea has had a continuing appeal even in the United States.

As early as 1910, American philosopher William James wrote an essay endorsing "a conscription of the whole youthful population" to work for the community.

In the 1930s, President Franklin D. Roosevelt created a "peacetime army" called the Civilian Conserva-

tion Corps (CCC). Drawing a paycheck from Uncle Sam, more than 3 million Americans labored (voluntarily) to plant trees and restore national parks.

In the 1960s, presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson launched a flurry of public-service initiatives, including the Peace Corps and VISTA. While voluntary, these programs extended and formalized the government's role in directing and funding public-service work.

Fast-forward to 1994, when President Clinton instituted the AmeriCorps, which paid young people to "volunteer" for social service organizations.

As part of his ongoing efforts to promote government-directed service programs, Clinton even sponsored the Presidents' Summit on America's Future in 1997 to encourage volunteerism.

In a declaration that eerily echoed the rhetoric used by some of history's worst despots, Clinton and four former presidents informed Americans that they "owe a debt of service" and have "an obligation to give something back to the country and community."

## Perform service

By the late 1990s, such rhetoric had turned into law. In Maryland, the school board required young people to perform community service in order to graduate

from high school.

While Republicans at first opposed Clinton's AmeriCorps program, by the time President George W. Bush was elected, they embraced it.

In 2002, Bush proposed spending \$560 million on his USA Freedom Corps, which he said would expand Clinton's AmeriCorps. Bush said the program would recruit up to 200,000 government-funded "volunteers" to build homes, teach literacy, and "fight evil with acts of goodness."

So what's so bad about serving your community, even if the government is forcing you (or paying you) to do it?

Libertarians oppose such programs for four major reasons:

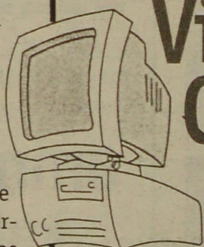
## 1) They are antithetical to the spirit of America.

The United States was founded on a radical notion: That the proper role of government is to protect the rights of citizens. Individuals are the masters, and a (limited) government is the servant.

National service turns that notion on its head. As Doug Bandow wrote in *Cato Policy Analysis No. 190* (March 15, 1993): National service "programs ultimately assume that citizens are responsible, not to each other, but to the state. Mandatory, universal schemes unabashedly put private

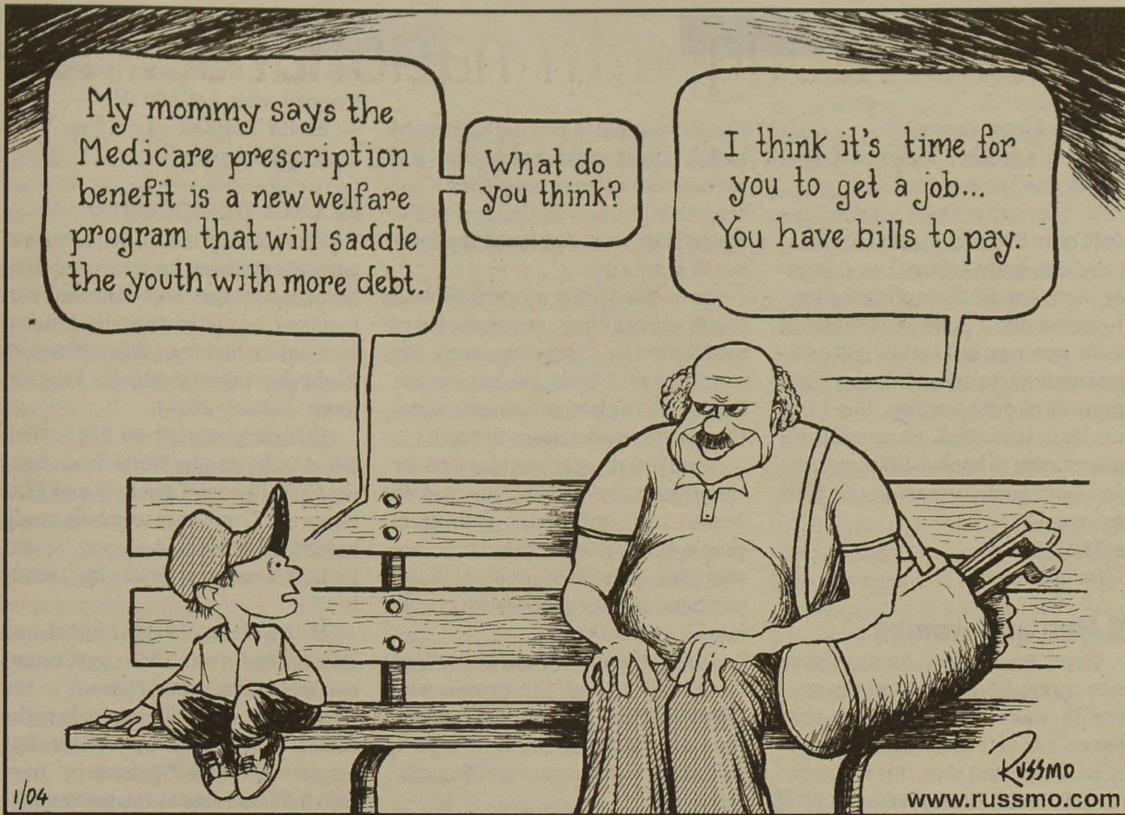
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## THE MAILBOX

### ■ The Boortz choice

Regarding Neal Boortz at the LP Convention [The MailBox, January 2004]:

The Libertarian Party I knew was based on seeing all sides to an argument, and going for the choice that is for freedom.

If that is the case, why are so many people so against hearing Neal Boortz? Are they afraid he might offend someone who is thin-skinned; are they afraid he might cause someone to think? How is petitioning for the booting of a speaker a way to promote more choice?

If the LP decides to boot Boortz, they will show themselves as no different from the two major parties, and will continue to be relegated to third party status.

— **JESSE DOLAN**  
Richmond, Virginia

### ■ Flying apart

The LP has an opportunity to fly apart — and January's MailBox makes me fear we are seizing it.

Two letters lambaste National Convention organizers for the temerity of inviting Neal Boortz to speak. Substitute the name "Clarence Thomas" for Boortz and they could have been in the pages of *The New York Times*, *Salon*, or *Mother Earth News*.

So Boortz supports the war and you don't. It's fine that we disagree, but it's not fine to compare him to the KKK. Damn it, it's our Libertarian Party, not yours and not his. We must be able to work together despite our differences, or else David Nolan's brainchild will die a sad and meaningless death.

Democrats have become so politi-

**"WHY ARE SO MANY people so against hearing Neal Boortz at the convention? Are they afraid he might cause someone to think?"**

cally rigid that they've driven away their (former) members who are pro-gun, pro-life, or anti-tax. Will the Libertarian Party emulate them and excommunicate all the members who honestly are convinced of a link between Iraq and 9/11?

Few of us are perfect Libertarians. When our delegations of imperfect libertarians meet in May we will be in agreement on 98% of the issues. Will we eat each other alive over than last 2%?

The world will witness the 2004 Libertarian National Convention on C-SPAN. Will viewers see principled pluralists discussing our sincere differences like adults? Or will they see the LP self-destruct like the Reform Party? The choice is ours.

— **ANTHONY TRAURING**  
Atlanta, Georgia

### ■ Worthy of approval

I'm disturbed that a lot of Libertarians have promoted candidates and convention speakers (speakers who don't represent a particular issue organization) who don't share a broad

commitment to liberty.

In California, many Libertarian activists formally backed Republican legislator Tom McClintock in the 2003 gubernatorial recall election. Mr. McClintock isn't a libertarian.

In New Hampshire, the state LP invited the incumbent Republican governor, Craig Benson, to speak at its 2003 convention. Mr. Benson isn't a libertarian.

Now, radio host Neal Boortz is scheduled to speak at the 2004 LP national convention. Although Mr. Boortz is a well-known, Atlanta-based LP member who has spoken at past events, his relentless post-9/11 cheerleading for preemptive war, government surveillance, and the Bush administration show that he isn't a libertarian.

I'm not suggesting that Libertarians insist on an impossible ideological standard. The question should be whether a candidate or general speaker is committed to the inclusive principle of liberty — not whether he's a prominent politician or media personality who likes a few semi-libertarian ideas.

If that means that only a small number of people in politics or the media are worthy of Libertarian approval, so be it.

— **JONATHAN TRAGER**  
Washington, DC

### ■ Get over it

A handful of people are putting a great deal of effort into producing a high-quality convention we can all enjoy.

Another handful of people are whining because they do not approve

See **MAILBOX** Page 24

## THE PULSE

# Unchanging on Iraq

Libertarians don't change their minds. That's one thing we learned from this month's Pulse.

The other thing we learned is: A solid majority of *LP News* readers oppose the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

They were responding to our unscientific attempt to learn if Libertarians' views about the conflict in Iraq had changed after the invasion turned from threat into reality. (And after exhaustive searches failed to turn up Saddam Hussein's alleged WMDs.)

We asked: "Regarding the U.S. invasion of Iraq, in which of the following four categories do you fall: 1) You opposed it before and oppose it now. 2) You supported it before and support it now. 3) You opposed it before but support it now. 4) You supported it before but oppose it now."

The results were unequivocal: 56.8% of respondents placed themselves in category #1. They have continuously opposed the war.

On the other side, 29.7% said they were in category #2, and have consistently supported the war.

In the distinct minority were the mind-changers. Only 5.4% were in category #4 (used to support it; don't now), and 2.7% were in category #3 (didn't support it before; do now).

Add up the two anti-war categories (#1 and #4), and a solid 62.2% of respondents oppose the Iraqi invasion.

Tally up the two pro-war categories (#2 and #3) and 32.4% support President George W. Bush's unilateral attack on Iraq.

Meanwhile, 5.4% of respondents gave ambiguous answers. (Full disclosure: 37 readers responded to this survey, so category #1 won with 21 votes). Here's what *LP News* readers had to say:

■ #1. If it's possible, I oppose it even *more* now that we know that the shoddy evidence used to drag us into this war was based on lies!  
— **JOE JOHNSON**, Frederick, Colorado

■ #1. Duh! I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals.  
— **JIM BABB**, Norristown, Pennsylvania

■ #2. Saddam murdered foreigners (and Iraqis), so foreigners may execute him. He himself is a WMD.  
— **ANDREW LOHR**, Chattanooga, Tennessee

■ #1. We attacked a country that was not attacking us. We took over the government, and are trying to change their basic way of life. None of this did they ask for. How un-libertarian is that?  
— **JERRY DIXON**, Santee, California

■ #1. The "why" seem obvious. Libertarian principles should suffice — no initiation of force. Justifications given were clearly lies, and the justifications have changed. Now it's Saddam-was-an-evil-man. Are we prepared to go after every "evil" dictator? Burma? China? Cuba?  
— **JAMES E. BRENTAR**, Euclid, Ohio

■ #2. It is part of the war on terrorism. I agree with President Bush that we must track down the terrorists and kill them before they kill more of us. We have no choice.  
— **JOSEPH F. LIDO**, Montebello, California

■ #1. The question begs asking: Is the likelihood of further terror attacks on the U.S. greater or lesser since the Iraqi invasion? I say greater, by far.  
— **RETTA FONTANA**, Rochester, Michigan

■ #1. The U.S. has no business attacking countries that have not attacked us or made it obvious that an attack is imminent. The notion of a "pre-emptive" foreign policy is antithetical to American values.  
— **STEVE DAMERELL**, Fairfax, Virginia

■ #2. I supported it before and support it now because of the terrorists' attack on the WTC. I firmly believe that Iraq had some part in it and I am tired of us always turning the other cheek.  
— **ARTHUR KULOSA, JR.**, Cazenova, Wisconsin

■ #3. I opposed it before, but support it now. I subscribe to the Libertarian ideology of non-intervention, but once our government made the commitment to go, we must follow through and help the Iraqis govern themselves. We should then get out ASAP.  
— **CHUCK SPERRY**, Keaau, Hawaii

■ #4. I supported it before but oppose it now. I trusted my government when they told me that Saddam and Iraq were linked to al-Qaeda. I was wrong.  
— **BARRY ROWE**, Melbourne, Florida

See **THE PULSE** Page 24



## THE PULSE

Continued from Page 23

■ #1. Libertarianism renounces the initiation of force. I opposed the war effort before and oppose it now because it relies on the initiation of force (taxing and murdering innocent people). War is the quintessential Big Government program.

— MICHAEL R. EDELSTEIN, San Francisco, California

■ #2. During a span of terror lasting over 20 years, Saddam Hussein slaughtered several hundred thousand of his own people. Regardless of any other perceived threat to our country by Iraqi weapons, the simple fact that we have the power to intervene and end the atrocities justifies our presence in Iraq.

— JASSEN BOWMAN, Fort Collins, Colorado

■ #1. Interventionism led to 9/11 and now leads to an ever higher security burden. Noninterventionism is part of the bedrock of libertarian principles for a reason.

— TOM PALVEN, Farmingdale, New Jersey

■ #1. Each time we invade another country, we increase the chance that they will retaliate by smuggling a nuclear bomb into the U.S. and blowing up one of our cities.

— PAUL L. STUDIER, Lake Forest, California

■ #2. If we wait for a major biological or nuclear attack, many of us won't be here to say, "I told you so." Isolationism only works as long as there are no evil people in the world intent upon making all other subservient to their views.

— CAROLL MURPHY, Sweden, Maine

■ #1. Iraq is an expensive — financially and diplomatically — mistake grounded in misinformation and dubious intelligence.

— CHRISTOPHER TAYLOR, Moscow, Idaho

## April Question: Boot Neal Boortz?

Listen to the anti-Neal Boortz crowd and the syndicated radio talk show host is a statist devil. He's a fanatical supporter of the U.S. invasion of Iraq and thinks the FBI ought to investigate anti-war protestors. He's *not* a libertarian, they say — and it's an outrage that he's been invited to speak at the 2004 LP National Convention. Listen to the pro-Boortz crowd and the guy is 98% Libertarian — but one who happens to disagree with the LP about the War on Terrorism. He'd make a great speaker, they say — and, besides, it would be hypocritical for us to "Boot Boortz," since Libertarians are supposed to support free speech. There's a third view, too. It's the "Get a life!" crowd, and they say the debate over Boortz is a waste of time. It won't make any real difference if Boortz speaks, they say, and LP members should stop battling about it — and, instead, work to get Libertarians elected to public office. Which side do you agree with most?

■ QUESTION: Should Neal Boortz be *un-invited* from the 2004 National Convention? Or should he be kept on the roster as a speaker? Or are Libertarians just wasting their time debating this issue? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: March 8, 2004

## March Question: R or D in 2004?

As difficult as it is to believe, some libertarians have organized a "Libertarians for Howard Dean" group. Sure, they say, the Democratic frontrunner wants to *re-regulate* major industries and reverse the Bush tax cuts — but at least he'd get us out of Iraq and repeal the USA/Patriot Act. As difficult as it is to believe, some libertarians want President G.W. Bush to get re-elected. (Talk show host Neal Boortz among them.) Sure, they say, Bush foisted a \$400 billion Medicare drug benefit on us, invaded Iraq, and has presided over a massive increase in federal spending — but at least he cut taxes and is fighting the threat of terrorism. Now, we know *you're* going to vote Libertarian in 2004. But most Americans probably won't. So, if our guy doesn't win, would you prefer Bush to get four more years, or would liberty be better served with a Democrat serving in the White House?

■ QUESTION: If a Libertarian doesn't win, would the USA be better off with a Democrat such as Howard Dean getting elected president in 2004, or with G.W. Bush getting re-elected? Or doesn't it matter? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: February 8, 2004

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

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

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

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

## THE MAILBOX

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of a certain speaker. Get over it. Neal Boortz won't hurt you.

If the convention committee could get a Bush or a Clinton to speak, it could be quite a draw. I would simply leave during their presentation.

Personally, I have read some of Neal's writings and would quite enjoy listening to him. I doubt I will agree 100% with anyone, but I can sure learn from most. My mind is still agile enough to handle differing opinions. I bet yours is too. Let the show begin.

— TED DUNLAP

Nampa, Idaho

### Men and women

Thank you, Allison Brown! I have been trying for years to get libertarians to wake up to the fact that women are definitely in the minority in the LP and that this is a problem [LP News, January 2004].

Nearly all have pooh-poohed my concern. Some point to the fact that men tend more than women to be activists across the political spectrum. Most deny there's even a reason for concern.

So when I saw Ms. Brown's article, I was thrilled. It's about time.

Having said that, I want to take a moment to take minor issue with the thrust of her excellent article.

I recognize that Ms. Brown was painting with a broad brush in her descriptions of men vs. women. However, I think it's somewhat dangerous to fall into the trap of "feelings" vs. "rationality" in defining the differences.

My relationship with my wife that has taught me just how slippery the "feelings" vs "reason" slope really is. In fact, I've found that I'm a lot more feelings-oriented than people might expect, even though I apply a highly rational approach to the world.

Similarly, describing my wife as being feelings-oriented would really miss the boat. She is more accurately described as person-oriented.

Women bring a perspective that libertarian men often ignore ... to our own peril. If I discuss a political issue with my wife using the typical libertarian arguments, it doesn't hold her attention.

But when I start using her person-oriented way of expressing ideas, I make real progress with her. This often requires me to rethink libertarian ideals from completely new perspectives.

The dialogue between men and women on libertarian issues is something that desperately needs to happen on a more frequent basis. Thanks Allison for raising the issue so successfully.

— WALT THIESSEN

Hardy, Virginia

### Pro 50-state

I am saddened to learn the party has stopped making 50-state (and DC) ballot access a priority.

Fifty-state ballot access is one of the tangible things that sets our party apart from other so-called third parties

and the fourth parties. Fifty-state ballot access is an entry into the presidential debates, and it is an entry into legitimacy in the eyes of the mainstream press and voters throughout the country.

As a party, we already have a tough enough time getting people to overcome the "throwing away my vote" canard. If we are not on the ballot in 10 or five or even one state, the canard moves closer to truth.

I worked at party headquarters for three years. Part of my job was to answer mail and phone calls from people interested in the party, but who had questions about policies, positions and the practicality of voting for a Libertarian.

One of the most important things I was able to tell the people who called was that in 1992 and 1996 we were on the ballot in all 50 states, just like the Democrats and Republicans.

Fifty-state ballot access is a badge of legitimacy. But like any streak, once it is broken, it will be more difficult to return to that level.

Fifty-state ballot access is the only thing that truly makes us a national party.

Fifty-state ballot status allows every American to strike a blow for liberty. If we do not give people that opportunity no one else will. Our cause and our country depend on it.

— DANIEL N. SMITH

St. Louis, Missouri

### Pro-Buffalo

Jack D. Papin suggests a buffalo mascot for the LP in the January edition [The MailBox].

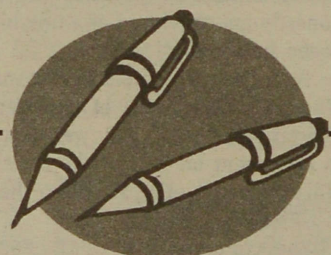
I love it! Even though the buffalo is a herding animal, they are uniquely American, proud, noble, powerful, and their plight mirrors the trampling of liberty in this country. No offense, Liberty Penguins.

— CHRIS LEINSTER

Denver, Colorado

### Brilliant buffalo

The idea for Libertarians to choose the buffalo as our mascot was brilliant! It is an image that really does



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seem to be a good fit for the Libertarian Party and more importantly, one that I think many people will identify with. Let's do it!

— RANDY KESSLER

Bend, Oregon

### Lack perspective

The primary reason we have war advocates who claim they are Libertarian is that they lack historical perspective, or are historically blinded by religious bigotry. ("LP hawks start 'Fight for Liberty' group, Political News, January 2004).

If history started on 9/11, then the attacks on the World Trade Center (U.S. financial symbol) and Pentagon (U.S. military symbol) could indeed be construed as acts of war without a national source by "terrorists."

If the history of U.S. direct and indirect and overt and covert financial and military involvement in the Middle East is not ignored, then the events of 9/11 must be construed as disparate acts of self-defense by "freedom fighters," just as the participants claim.

The Founding Fathers warned of involvement in the affairs of other countries, particularly their wars. They advocated free trade with all and entangling alliances with none.

Yet the U.S. has repeatedly been suckered into playing policeman or white knight for one side or another. All such affairs have reduced domestic personal freedom at great economic cost. Now we are told that making other nations into our image is our national purpose.

If U.S. citizens volunteer to depose dictators, fine, but no one should be commanded to do so. Government is the collective expression of self-defense. It should again be limited to protecting domestic property from attack or piracy.

— BILL HOLMES

Carlsbad, California

### Scare the public

The LP News article, "A Libertarian perspective on the 'crisis' of global warming" [Libertarian Solutions, January 2004] is the very best that I have ever read on that subject.

It seems to be well researched and factual. It coincides exactly to my views on the subject, and helps to show that the so-called experts love to scare the public so they can get into the news.

— ARTHUR KULOSA, JR.

Cazenova, Wisconsin

### Expel members

So 67% of LPers oppose open borders? [The Pulse, January 2004.]

The libertarian axiom is that we reject the initiation of force as a solution to social problems. If a Mexican born 100 feet to the south of the border is turned away by an armed government thug when he tries to cross that border, he suffers from an initiation of force. So anyone wishing to remain an LP member must, ipso facto, favor open borders.

Yet your survey says only 33% of us would. What can we conclude from this?

At first sight, we must conclude

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## THE MAILBOX

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that the LP is three times too large; that 67% of our members need to be expelled.

And that may be so; but there is another possibility: that respondents were answering a different question — not so much should there be open borders, but rather, should LPers propose open borders now, as a very high priority?

In other words, they may have been thinking strategically as candidates instead of on the basis of principle alone.

If so, I suggest they ought to have said so, to prevent any casual reader gaining the impression that I did — namely, that the LP has gone stark staring mad and has abandoned its central principle.

— JIM DAVIES

Newbury, New Hampshire

■ **Editor's note:** As mentioned in each issue, *The Pulse* is not a scientific survey. So, 67% of LP members do not necessarily oppose open borders.

### ■ Semi-hostile Mexico

The results of the *LP News* poll concerning immigration do not surprise me too much.

I don't think that the issue is really about immigration, however. I don't think most Americans are against people immigrating to the U.S. from Nicaragua, El Salvador, China, Canada or wherever.

I think what really concerns most Americans is the use of immigration by one semi-hostile government, Mexico, to interfere in the operation and policies of another government, namely that of the United States.

Indeed, the government of Mexico, through its promise of dual citizenship and survival kits to encourage its poorest citizens to immigrate to America, has become quite a meddler in U.S. affairs.

At least one Mexican president has proudly proclaimed that the borders of his country extend well beyond the officially recognized borders. His statement merely reflects the hostile belief on the part of many Mexicans that most of the southwestern part of the United States still lawfully belongs to Mexico.

While it is true that many of the people that do come from Mexico to the United States to work assimilate and become productive members of our society, it is equally true that the government of Mexico is doing everything in its power to ensure that this does not occur.

When viewed in this light, then, the real problem is not one of immigration; rather, it is a question of one

hostile country using its immigration policies to interfere in the operation of another.

— EMIL CRAWFORD

Lubbock, Texas

### ■ What, no utopia?

A number of things in the December *LP News* irritated me.

When I discovered Libertarianism, I was happy to find a political party united by a small set of principles. The principles are that there are only two crimes, the initiation of force and the perpetration of fraud.

Now, I find that many Libertarians don't recognize the principles. It's very disturbing and causes me despair that even a society of Libertarians may not create a utopia as I had imagined.

Apply the principles and you find that zoning does not involve the initiation of force or fraud because it usually pre-exists the purchase of property. Buying property amounts to agreeing to be bound by a contract entered into freely.

Why would any sane person buy a house in an unzoned area in which someone could build a steel mill or Wal-Mart next door?

[Another] issue, vegetarianism, is equally obvious. Eating animals involves the initiation of force. Whether or not they can say "Don't eat me." is irrelevant. They don't willingly offer themselves up for slaughter. They scream and try to run away.

Every societal issue that faces us can be addressed using the principles of no force or fraud. It doesn't matter what our personal views are. We don't need to investigate issues any more deeply than asking if they involve force or fraud.

— NICK KYRIAZI

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

### ■ WTO outrage

I am writing because I have not seen anything in *LP News* regarding an important issue: that the United States is officially no longer a fully sovereign nation. The World Trade Organization (WTO) told the United States to drop its steel tariffs or else, and the U.S. complied.

Don't get me wrong. I do not support tariffs; but it does bother me that the sovereignty of the United States has been violated and that politicians, the media, and even the LP, have shown little or no outrage.

Maybe some people feel that violated sovereignty is okay if it is done in the name of policy or an issue we support, i.e., free trade. I would hope that nobody in the party of principle feels this way.

Even worse, the WTO is not a proponent of free trade; it is a proponent of government-managed trade. So where is the outrage?

— JAMES E. BRENTAR

Euclid, Ohio

### ■ Tax strategy

I've become increasingly concerned that my LP is painting itself into a corner and limiting itself in terms of support. And it's doing this by pushing opposition to taxes rather than emphasizing that our opposition is to the things that taxes buy.

All taxes are supported by someone, not least the people who gain the benefit from the programs the taxes finance. Our seemingly general opposition to all things tax-related puts us squarely in opposition to ... *virtually everyone!*

Unless we state what we oppose — i.e., we don't like this program because the government shouldn't do X and Y — anyone who benefits from tax expenditures will feel threatened by LP opposition to "taxes." And will therefore oppose us.

Yet we're not opposed to taxes in general, are we? We're just opposed

**"THE ONLY DEAD animal I want on my table is beef, so I just don't go into restaurants with dead skunks. Pretty simple, huh?"**

to some of the things taxes will be used for.

I believe that almost all LP members would agree that there is a role for governments. (The ones who see no role for government whatever are silly and should be ignored.) That said, those governmental roles must be financed, and taxes do this. Therefore, almost all LP members support some level of taxation.

We're becoming too closely identified with tax opposition, and not tied strongly enough to liberty, individual freedom, and a limited role for the government. Oppose government programs where necessary. But don't just oppose taxes.

— GILBERT REED

Alexandria, Virginia

### ■ Segregated smoking

[Re: Letters on smoking bans, The MailBox, December 2003 and January 2004]:

We Libertarians have segregated ourselves nicely on the smoking issue. It's either you're a prissy non-smoker who faints at day-old cheese odor or a smelly old smokestack who would breathe their filthy exhaust at anyone within reach.

As a means of finding some common ground on the issue, let's distance ourselves from the medical and aesthetic descriptions of the problem

and focus on the political one.

Restated forcefully, but accurately, "No smoking allowed in restaurants" means "I have the right to walk into a restaurant at random and expect a smoke-free atmosphere."

In a way that seems odd, since no restaurant that I've visited was bound by law to serve anyone. Very few offer use of their facilities except to their customers. So why would one be entitled to any other right from a restaurant?

Even more perplexing is whether the busybodies considered the following: If the demand for smoke-free dining is strong enough to write a law, wouldn't it be a great business opportunity for restaurateurs to open "smoke free" establishments?

There are easily enough restaurants in the U.S. to do this. Anybody up for a little free enterprise maybe?

— KEN PARMALEE

Morrow, Georgia

### ■ Pro-dead skunk

I am completely bamboozled by how many people seem to be in favor of smoking bans.

David Brown and Dean Wahls bring up ammonia, dead skunks, and mustard gas. Well, as a matter of fact, I approve of any restaurant having the above distasteful things in their restaurant (if the owner is dumb enough to do so and makes it clear to the public that is the case).

Since I am a sentient being and the only dead animal I want on my table is beef, I just don't go into restaurants with dead skunks. Pretty simple, huh?

The cornerstone of the Libertarian Party is property rights. I can do whatever I choose in my own home, car — or restaurant! You, however, can choose not to come to my home or restaurant.

It is ludicrous to have the government do by force what we have complete power to do as individuals by our own free will. The vast majority of fast-food restaurants are already non-smoking, and many full-service restaurants are.

As more people don't want to be around smoke, more restaurants will begin to cater to that clientele. The free market will solve the problem much more efficiently than the government ever can.

— DOUG SLOAN

Indianapolis, Indiana

### ■ Toxic smoke

I have to question the point of Joe Johnson's Forum article [January 2004]. In "trying to be fair," he sidesteps the most important issue, the toxicity of secondhand smoke.

If tobacco smoke is carcinogenic, then presumably secondhand smoke is as well. The principle of non-aggression would certainly apply to non-smokers having to breathe secondhand smoke in any "public" setting, including outdoors locations such as a public bus stop.

If there is proven toxicity in something, then libertarians should support laws that protect people from involuntarily being exposed to that substance or condition.

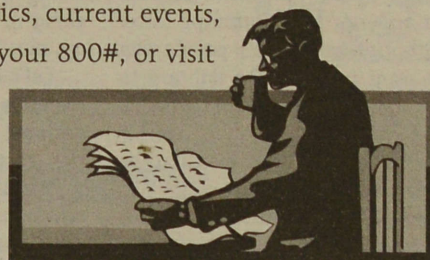
— MITCHELL J. MCCONNELL

Brookline, New Hampshire

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# What's wrong with national service

Continued from Page 22

lives at the disposal of the government."

## 2) They get government more involved in private charities.

Like President Bush's plan to give federal money to religious charities, programs like the USA Freedom Corps have a damaging effect on philanthropic groups.

As Michael Tanner wrote in *Cato Briefing Paper No. 62* (March 22, 2001) mixing government and charity could "undermine the very things that have made private charity so effective."

For example, he said, government involvement could leave private organizations "overwhelmed with paperwork and subject to a host of federal regulations," could leave groups increasingly dependent on government money and government-funded volunteers, and could politicize what should be compassionate decisions.

"Most important," wrote Tanner, "the whole idea of charity could become subtly corrupted; the difference between the welfare state and true charity could be blurred."

## 3) Voluntary service programs can be a stepping stone to non-voluntary programs.

Many supporters of voluntary service programs are honest about what they really want: *Mandatory* service programs.

For example, Senator John McCain supports a mandatory military draft or two-year term of equivalent civilian service, but says such a plan is "not currently politically practical."

However, as Badow notes: "Proponents of a mandatory, universal system see voluntary programs as a helpful first step."

David R. Henderson, an associate professor at the Naval Postgraduate School, agrees. As he wrote in *Reason* magazine (February 1993): "With the voluntary-service network in place, and with an existing constituency of organizations that benefit from the artificially cheap labor, the next step is compulsory service."

## 4) They are not needed.

Politicians promoting national service schemes suggest there is a lack of volunteers in America. They couldn't be more wrong.

According to a Gallup poll, 48% of Americans volunteer every year, contributing over 19.5 billion hours of annual volunteer time.

As past LP Executive Director Steve Dasbach said in a 1997 LP press release: "Politicians can't grasp the notion that Americans don't need to be bribed or blackmailed into volunteering."

Given all these arguments against government-mandated or government-funded public service, here is what Libertarians would do to liberate Americans from it:

## 1) End mandatory "service" programs for young people.

Starting in 1997, Maryland re-

quired high school students to perform 75 hours of public service as a condition of graduation. Students had to work to meet "community needs" in the area of health, education, environment, or public safety.

Since then, 200 local school districts have implemented a similar requirement, and Illinois is currently mulling such a plan.

Ironically, while government schools are busy forcing students to build picnic tables and raise money to buy bullet-proof vests for police dogs (both real projects), they are failing in their primary mission: To educate students. According to the 2000 National Assessment of Education Progress report, about one of four high school students are functionally illiterate when they graduate. So, they know how to "serve" but not how to *read*.

## 2) Abolish Selective Service.

Selective Service may be the ultimate in useless government programs: It registers young men for a draft that doesn't exist.

Under federal law, every American male has 30 days to register with Selective Service once they turn 18. Since it was restarted by President Jimmy Carter in 1980, the program has cost taxpayers about \$24 million every year.

Supporters say Selective Service is needed in case the U.S. goes to war and needs to suddenly mobilize large numbers of troops.

However, even the alleged beneficiary disputes that. Citing the success of the all-volunteer military, the Pentagon concluded in a 1993 report: "Peacetime draft registration could be suspended without irreparable damage to national security."

## 3) Don't bring back the draft.

Legislation to reinstate the draft has been filed in the U.S. House by Charles Rangel (D-NY), and in the U.S. Senate by Fritz Hollings (D-SC). Both cite an overextended U.S. military and a need to make military service more inclusive.

What they don't say is that a draft would almost certainly diminish the quality of the USA's best-in-the-world military.

Badow made that point when he wrote: "If you look at any measure of quality today, our volunteer force is far superior to a conscript force. Conscript would force people who don't want to be in the military to serve and supplant people who do want to be there."

Politicians also don't mention the coercive nature of a draft.

As Paul Jacob noted in a column (December 28, 2003): "Any tyrant can conscript an army. However, the unconquerable spirit that drives the American soldier comes from a free

people. The American soldier is there because he chooses to be there."

## 4) Abolish federal "paid volunteer" programs such as AmeriCorps and the USA Freedom Corps.

In 1993, when President Clinton unveiled his AmeriCorps program, he also created the perfect government oxymoron: The *paid* volunteer.



According to Clinton, volunteers receive a "modest" stipend (and money to pay for college) in exchange for working for social-service organizations. Well, that depends on what your definition of "modest" is.

According to the Heritage Foundation, the program spent an average of \$30,000 for each two-year "volunteer." That price tag included a \$7,400 annual salary, \$9,450 worth of college expenses, and administrative costs. That works out to a \$7.27 per hour salary, plus medical benefits and free child care.

Was that \$30,000 well spent? You decide. James Bovard (in the *American Spectator*, July/August 2000), reported that AmeriCorps workers put on a puppet show in California to warn 4-year-olds of the dangers of earthquakes, and helped run a program in New York that gave children \$5 for each toy gun they brought in.

In 1999, the Cato Institute's Derrick Max reported that AmeriCorps sent 142 employees and consultants to a "community service conference" at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas at a cost of several million dollars.

## Conclusion

*Who owns you?* How you answer that question will determine whether you believe that Americans should be legislated (or bribed) into doing public service work, or forced into serving in the military.

For Libertarians, the answer is clear: You are a sovereign individual. You own yourself. You own your talent and your work.

Libertarians also understand that coercive "volunteering" is not necessary. Americans have a long history of rallying to defend the nation in times of genuine crisis, and stepping forward to help their fellow citizens in need. They've never needed a politician to force them to do so.

As Badow noted, volunteering needs neither "oversight nor subsidy from Big Brother. True compassion is going to [flow] from the grassroots up, not from Washington down."

Let's end on this thought: While (genuine) volunteering and (forced) national service have some similarities, there is one major difference...

National service is a product of government power, bureaucracy, and coercion. Volunteering, on the other hand, is the highest tribute to the American spirit of cooperation, compassion, and *liberty*.

## UPCOMING

### March 18-21, 2004

**"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference,** Paradise, Texas. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

### March 26-27, 2004

**Virginia LP Convention,** Richmond Marriott Hotel, Richmond. Speakers include James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik (candidates for 2004 LP presidential nomination), and Robert McBride (2003 Virginia LP candidate for Prince William County Board of Supervisors). For information, contact Jim Lark at: (434) 973-5958. Or e-mail: [affiliates@lpva.com](mailto:affiliates@lpva.com).



### March 27, 2004

**Arkansas LP Convention,** Hot Springs Convention Center, Hot Springs. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: [bfarlp@leapfrognet.com](mailto:bfarlp@leapfrognet.com). Or call: (866) 244-7341. Or write: Arkansas LP, P.O. Box 15214, Little Rock, AR 72231.

### April 23-25, 2004

**Ohio LP Convention,** Clarion Hotel and Suites, Cincinnati. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail Steve Schulte at: [srschult@iac.net](mailto:srschult@iac.net). Or call: (513) 923-4299.

### April 24, 2004

**Connecticut LP Convention,** The Colony Hotel, New Haven. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: [vicechair@lpct.org](mailto:vicechair@lpct.org).

### April 24, 2004

**New York LP Convention,** Holiday Inn Martinique (Manhattan), New York City. Speakers include Gary Nolan (candidate, 2004 LP presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.ny.LP.org](http://www.ny.LP.org). Or e-mail Thomas Ruks: [TRuksLP@yahoo.com](mailto:TRuksLP@yahoo.com). Or call: (516) SOS-GOVT.

### May 13-15, 2004

**Freedom Fest 2004: "Where Free Minds Meet,"** Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Sponsored by The Young America's Foundation. Speakers include John Mackey (founder, Whole Foods), Charles Murray (author, *Human Accomplishment*), Harry Browne (1996 and 2002 LP presidential candidate), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), and Ron Paul (U.S. Representative, R-TX). For information, visit: [www.freedomfest.com](http://www.freedomfest.com). Or call: (800) USA-1776.

### May 21-23, 2004

**Colorado LP Convention,** Rocky Mountain Park Holiday Inn, Estes Park. Speakers include Boston T. Party (author, *Hologram of Liberty*). For information, visit: <http://home.earthlink.net/~libertytool/>.

### May 27-31, 2004

**Libertarian Presidential Nominating Convention,** Marriott Atlanta Marquis Hotel, Atlanta, Georgia. Speakers include U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), Dean Cameron (actor), James Gray (U.S. District judge), Neal Boortz (syndicated radio talk show host), James Bovard (author, *Terrorism and Tyranny*), Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government), Michael C. Colley (retired U.S. Navy vice admiral), James Lark (past LP national chair), Richard Mack (anti-Brady Bill sheriff), David Nolan (Libertarian Party founder), Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), and Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate). Entertainers include blues musician Jimmie Vaughan. Questions, comments, suggestions, e-mail: [convention@hq.LP.org](mailto:convention@hq.LP.org). Or visit: [www.LP.org/conv/2004](http://www.LP.org/conv/2004).

### June 11-13, 2004

**Texas LP Convention,** College Station Hilton Hotel, College Station. Speakers TBA. For information, call Christopher Jagge at: (979) 695-9646. Or e-mail: [c\\_jagge@email.msn.com](mailto:c_jagge@email.msn.com).

### July 21-26, 2004

**ISIL's 23rd World Conference,** Novotel Rotorua, New Zealand. Sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty & the Institute for Liberal Values. Speakers include Elbegdorj Tsakhia (former prime minister, Mongolia), Michael Cloud (creator, *The Art of Political Persuasion*), and Rodney Hide (member, New Zealand Parliament). For information, visit: [www.ISIL.org](http://www.ISIL.org). E-mail: [isil@ISIL.org](mailto:isil@ISIL.org). Call: (707) 746-8796.

### October 28-31, 2004

**Cato University Fall Weekend Seminar:** "Arguments for Liberty: How to Defend Individual Rights and Limited Government," Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers include Tom Palmer (director, Cato University) and Robert A. Sirico (Acton Institute). For information, visit: [www.cato-university.org](http://www.cato-university.org).



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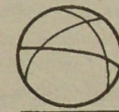
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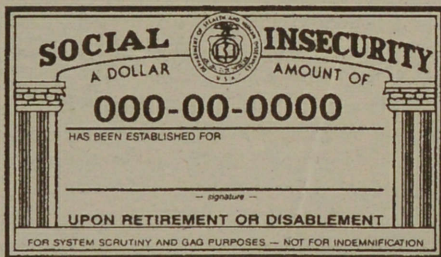
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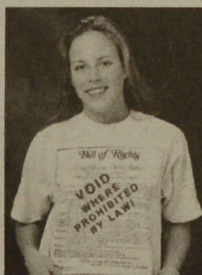
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## UPCOMING

### January 31, 2004

**Arizona LP Convention**, Viscount Suite Hotel, Tucson. Speakers include Clint Bolick (Institute for Justice), Richard Mack (Utah LP gubernatorial candidate), Barry Hess (2002 Arizona LP gubernatorial candidate), Ernest Hancock (Libertarian talk show host), and Michael Badnarik, Gary Nolan, and Aaron Russo (candidates, LP presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.azlp.org](http://www.azlp.org). Or call: (602) 248-8425. Or e-mail: [lpaz-info@cox.net](mailto:lpaz-info@cox.net).

### February 6-8, 2004



**Florida LP Convention**, Paramount Resort, Gainesville. Speakers include Michael Cloud (creator, The Essence of Political Persuasion), Harry Browne (1996 and 2000 LP presidential candidate), Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government), and Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.LPF.org](http://www.LPF.org). Or call: (800) 478-0555.

### February 19-22, 2004

**"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference**, San Juan Capistrano, California. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: [www.acton.org](http://www.acton.org).

### February 28, 2004

**Georgia LP Convention**, Douglasville Conference Center, Douglasville. Speakers include Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination), Bob Barr (former U.S. Representative), Michael Cloud (communications expert), and Michael Gilson de Lemos (Libertarian National Committee Representative). For information, call: (404) 888-9468. Or e-mail: [info@LPGeorgia.com](mailto:info@LPGeorgia.com).

### March 5-7, 2004

**Missouri, Kansas, & Nebraska LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Stadium Complex, Kansas City, Missouri. Speakers include Dr. Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Mark Nelson (LNC Representative), Kathryn Graham

(author, *Flight From Eden*), Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates, 2004 LP presidential nomination), and Tamara Millay (candidate, LP vice presidential nomination). For information, visit: [www.st-charles.lpmo.org/Conv\\_2004.html](http://www.st-charles.lpmo.org/Conv_2004.html). E-mail: [MOLP@LPMO.org](mailto:MOLP@LPMO.org). Call: (877) VOTE-4-US.

### March 6, 2004

**Delaware LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Select, Claymont. Speakers TBA. For more information, call (302) 478-5919. Or e-mail: [chair@de.lp.org](mailto:chair@de.lp.org).

### March 12-13, 2004

**New Jersey LP Convention**, Seaview Marriott Resort & Spa, Galloway Township. Speakers include Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Dean Ahmad (president, Minaret of Freedom Institute), and John Berthoud (president, National Taxpayers Union). For information, visit: [www.njlp.org](http://www.njlp.org).



### March 12-14, 2004

**California LP Convention**, San Jose DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers include Dean Cameron (actor), Peter Thiel (founder, PayPal), Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik (candidates for 2004 LP presidential nomination), Geoff Neale (LP national chair), Joe Seehusen (LP executive director), and the Rev. Lynnette Shaw (marijuana activist). For information, e-mail: [convention@ca.LP.org](mailto:convention@ca.LP.org). Or visit: [www.ca.LP.org](http://www.ca.LP.org).

### March 13, 2004

**Nevada LP & Clark County LP Convention**, Italian-American Supper Club, Las Vegas. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: [www.LPNevada.org](http://www.LPNevada.org). Or call Joe Silvestri: (702) 218-6228. E-mail: [ViceChair@LPNevada.org](mailto:ViceChair@LPNevada.org).

### March 19-21, 2004

**Pennsylvania LP Convention**, Harrisburg Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg. Speakers include Walter Williams (syndicated columnist), and Michael Badnarik and Gary Nolan (candidates for the 2004 LP presidential nomination). For information, call: (717) 233-6000. Or e-mail: [info@lppa.org](mailto:info@lppa.org).



For more Upcoming Events, see page 26

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## FIRST WORD

"If you think the two established parties in the United States are a recipe for disaster, there are alternatives. The best-known is the Libertarian Party." — *THE TREASURE COAST PALM* (Florida), December 22, 2003

"The Libertarians are the only party that believes in limited government and personal freedom. This is the kind of message that appeals to a lot of people."

— JAMES R. COOK, [www.GoldSeek.com](http://www.GoldSeek.com), December 14, 2003

"Contemporary libertarianism is really nothing more than the classical liberalism of James Madison and Thomas Jefferson. As such, any summary of libertarianism's central propositions would probably include most of the following: That individual liberty is the most important political value, such that people should be allowed to live as they please so long as they respect the right of others to do the same. That there is no meaningful distinction between individual liberty and economic liberty, such that property rights are as indispensable to liberty as freedom of speech, press and religion."

— BRADLEY R. GITZ, *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*, Nov. 27, 2003