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Officeholder Profile:

Idaho's Rob Oates

Rob Oates, secretary of the Libertarian Party of Idaho, is a city councilman in Caldwell, a city of about 30,000 located halfway between Boise and the Oregon border. He describes the city as a conservative stronghold in a famously conservative state.

Oates is in the second year of a four-year term. The position is a nonpartisan one, but his affiliation with the Libertarian Party is well known, he said. It should be. He has a habit of writing letters to the editors of newspapers, and his libertarian point of view came out in the 16 or so letters he had published in the year before he ran for office.

"I like to prod the state legislature and point out the conflicts between their statements — calling for limited government — and their actions, which are statist," he said. "I state explicitly that my position is a libertarian position. And last year, they started printing the fact that I'm the secretary of the state LP, along with my name, below my letters to the editor."

"I really enjoy the discussion it provokes in the community."

Other people apparently enjoy it, as well: Several of his letters have won the *Idaho Press-Tribune's* "Silver Quill" award, which is given to the best letter to the editor each week.

And his name recognition — combined with knocking on doors, handing out flyers and putting up yard signs — helped him in the election.

"I won the election by only 31 votes, 880 to 849," Oates said. "I was the only challenger in Idaho to unseat an incumbent that night and I was interviewed on the three largest local TV stations."

Once he won the election, Oates said, he quickly realized politics is "very different from the romantic notion you get looking in from outside."

"The biggest surprise to me coming in was how little the council operates like a business," he said. "I thought the city council operated much like a corporate board, setting goals, guidelines and policies and then letting the mayor and city employees implement them."

"The reality I find is that the range of options — the room in which the council can behave like that board of directors — is very narrow. The opportunities to act by the council are set by the state legislature. We act within some very specific guidelines."

Some of the most difficult guidelines he has to follow deal with land-use and zoning issues, which are controlled by state law.

"Those issues directly impact property rights, so it has been one of the most difficult pills for me to swallow," Oates said.

"There has been some debate within the libertarian purist community, about whether a Libertarian like me should run for local office, because so much of what I have to do — like the land-use projects — is directly contradictory to my beliefs. But opportunities do arise. Twice in my term I've been able to try to influence the way those land use laws are implemented — try to implement them in a kinder, gentler way."

"To the purist critics, I can only say that if I wasn't seated on the council, it would be much harder for me to be heard. Sitting on the council, I can make my passionate speeches about property rights."

Unfortunately, all of the other council members "have pretty much embraced the idea that the city council is there to make new regulations," he said. "So I try to disagree with the others only when I believe there's a real opportunity for me to bring an added benefit to the discussion by doing so."

Is this the best possible way to address the sticky situation of being the sole Libertarian on a city council intent on increasing regulations?

"I'm sure my way is not perfect, but it has worked well for me," Oates said. "I do know that the crowds who come to the meetings have been pleased with the fact that someone is willing to take a stand, to

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■ **Rob Oates**

House approves bill to repeal death tax

By **J. Daniel Cloud**
LP NEWS EDITOR

The U.S. House of Representatives approved legislation April 13 to permanently repeal the estate tax — often called the "death tax" because it allows up to 50 percent of an American's life savings to be confiscated when he or she dies.

Approval of this legislation is a hopeful sign for the national Libertarian Party and other members of a coalition seeking to end the death tax, but the bill is expected to face heavy Democrat-led opposition or crippling compromises in the Senate.

In February the Libertarian Party joined the American Family Business Institute's Death Tax Repeal Working Group, whose goal is to help all those advocating the end of the death tax to become more productive in their efforts by forming a unified front against the tax.

"Death taxes — including estate taxes and gift taxes — are an immoral assault on our American way of life," said LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen.

"Many Americans spend their lifetimes paying taxes and still manage to save money to provide for their children and grandchildren after their deaths. But when they die, about 50 percent of their life's work and savings are confiscated by the federal government."

Under legislation approved in 2001, the death tax is gradually being



■ It has long been said the only two things certain in life are death and taxes. But that doesn't mean the two have to hit at the same time. The Libertarian Party is one of many organizations in a coalition working to end the death tax — and if a few U.S. senators can be convinced, the coalition could see its goal realized this year.

decreased. But that decrease is set to sunset after Dec. 31, 2010 — at which time the federal government will resume its practice of taking up to half of the life savings of small business owners, farmers and others who are hard-hit by the tax.

The House-approved bill — H.R. 8 — would make the repeal of the death tax permanent, meaning that beginning in 2011, people who worked all their lives to build a business and save money would be able to pass the product of their labor down to their children, rather

than have it confiscated.

The American Family Business Institute has been pushing H.R. 64, which would repeal the death tax retroactive to Dec. 31, 2004.

"It's just plain wrong for the government to have the gall to say, 'OK, you've died, so give us half your life savings,'" said Dick Patten, executive director of the American Family Business Institute. "When I die, it should be my right to bequeath my money to whoever I want, and the government shouldn't

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Libertarian 'candidate' elected as city councilman — without running

By **J. Daniel Cloud**
LP NEWS EDITOR

On April 5, Libertarian Ed Thompson won an unexpected victory in the city council election in Tomah, Wis., where he lives and runs a supper club called Mr. Ed's Tee-Pee.

It was unexpected because Thompson wasn't running for the position. He had recently decided

not to run for re-election to his post as chairman of the Wisconsin Libertarian Party, and was actually planning to take a break from politics.

In a March 25 op-ed, the editorial staff of the *Capital Times* in Madison, Wis., noted that "our friend Ed Thompson has stepped down as chair of the Libertarian Party to ... focus on deciding whether he will run for future political office, as

well as running his restaurant in Tomah."

The editorial's headline? "Ed Thompson: un-politician."

"The current city alderman had stepped down, said he wasn't going to run again, and a local young man named John Buick put an ad in the paper saying he was running as a write-in candidate," Thompson explained about a week after the

See **SURPRISE** Page 4

NEWS BRIEFS

CA LP opposes 'Ready Return' program

Talk about letting foxes guard the henhouse: The state of California is working on a plan through which the state would prepare state income tax forms for millions of state residents and simply send them bills for the amount due.

The brainchild of California Controller Steve Westly, the "Ready Return" scheme will be kicked off with a \$200,000 pilot program. Westly hopes to find 10,000 volunteers willing to test if the plan would be workable for the approximately three million taxpayers who have only one job, no dependents, no tax credits and no itemized deductions.

"Libertarians in California are adamantly opposed to the 'Ready Return' program," said Aaron Starr, chairman of the California LP.

"If the state fills out your 540 form for you, do you think your taxes are more likely to go up, or go down?" Starr asked rhetorically.

"Someone you trust, such as yourself or a good CPA, should do your taxes, not those responsible for maximizing state revenue," said Mark Whitney, at-large representative to the state LP's executive committee.

And it's not only Libertarians who oppose the plan. Nearly half the members of the state Assembly have signed a letter to the Franchise Tax Board saying the initiative, which was launched without lawmakers' consent, is "a dangerous precedent".

Pub crawl raises smoking ban awareness

On April 13, the Indiana LP held a Freedom Rally pub crawl to spread awareness about Proposal 45, the proposed smoking ban in businesses by the Indianapolis City-County Council. A vote on the ban is expected in May. The tour was concentrated in the district of the ordinance's lead proponent, Councilman Greg Bowes.

The Libertarians were joined by representatives of companies in the beer and coin-operated games industries, as well as two former Republican council candidates.

In all, more than 40 people showed up for the event, riding to the various bars in a bus provided by the Indiana Amusement & Music Operators Association. More Freedom Rally pub crawls are being planned to focus on other council members' districts.

Brad Klopfenstein, executive director of the Indiana LP, said he was pleasantly surprised to see so many people turn out for a Wednesday night event.

Several Libertarians showed up at a public hearing the day after the event to voice their opposition to the proposed ban.

The Libertarian Party has widely been recognized as the group heading up the opposition to the proposal, receiving support from various organizations and more than 30 Indianapolis bars and restaurants.

Schiavo intervention shows GOP hypocrisy

Republicans chose to abandon even the slightest notion that they support states' rights in the case of Terri Schiavo.

Schiavo, a Florida woman arguably in a persistent vegetative state for over a decade, was the focus of a bitter family fight for many years. Her husband and guardian, Michael Schiavo, believed that Terri did not want to be kept alive through artificial means. He won many court battles to have her feeding tube removed, but Terri's parents argued that she would want to live and receive rehabilitation.

Republicans such as Tom Delay, who is entrenched with his own ethics issues, lead the last-minute fight to save the life of Terri Schiavo through federal intervention — seeking to overrule state courts. The Republican tactics failed, as did subsequent court challenges.

Terri Schiavo died the morning of March 31, 2005.

The failed intervention by Republicans was an attempted coup of states' rights. While a show of support or the offering of assistance is always a personal choice of all Americans, federal politicians are not free to use their power to meddle in individual state affairs.

Of note is the fact that in 2003 a similar situation occurred — Schiavo's feeding tube was removed for six days — but with very different results. At that time, congressional Republicans ignored the pleas of their voter base and it was left to Florida Gov. Jeb Bush to intercede with the passing of "Terri's Law." The law was later struck down on constitutional grounds.

After that time, for a period of 17 months, Delay and others did nothing to save the life of Terri Schiavo until the cameras were turned on and the nation was watching. Had congressional Republicans truly valued Schiavo's life, they could have taken advantage of that 17-month period to express their views and take personal measures to support Schiavo's parents.

While each individual may have a differing opinion of the events surrounding Mrs. Schiavo, Libertarians and the majority of America can agree that the federal intervention attempted by congressional Republicans stepped over the line into both a private family matter and an issue to be decided by the state of Florida.

Alabama LP leaders promote legalizing medical marijuana

A group of Libertarian Party leaders in Alabama has been instrumental in getting legislation submitted that would, if approved, legalize marijuana for medical use in the state.

Founding members of AlaCare, the group pushing for legalization of medical marijuana in Alabama, include state LP Chairman Mark Bodenhausen; state Vice Chairman Stephen Gordon, who was communications director for the LPs 2004 presidential campaign; Dick Clark, a member of the Alabama LP's executive committee; and Loretta Nall, who plans to run for governor of Alabama on the Libertarian ticket in two years.

On March 31, state Rep. Laura Hall, a Democrat from Huntsville, introduced legislation that would allow seriously ill and dying patients access to medical marijuana for relief of their symptoms.

"Hall's son died of AIDS, and she stated at our press conference that she wished her son had had access to marijuana to ease his pain when he was dying," Gordon said after the "Compassionate Use Act" was introduced to the House.

If a 2004 poll conducted by the *Mobile Register* and the University of Alabama is any indicator, Alabama residents are ready for medical marijuana to be allowed, Gordon said — noting the poll indicated that 76 percent of Alabama residents "think that adults should be allowed to use marijuana for medical purposes if prescribed by a doctor."

Immediate media response to the measure's introduction was overwhelmingly positive, he said.

Dozens of newspaper stories appeared within two days of the bill's introduction, including a story on the front page of the *Birmingham News*, the largest newspaper in the state.

"This is the story of the day," Gordon said on April 1. "Out of the 20-odd stories I've read so far, I've seen only a few lines that were about any controversy surrounding marijuana use. The vast majority of people are recognizing that this is

a medical issue, a compassion issue, not a marijuana legalization issue.

"This is about allowing the laws to change regarding how patients are treated. It's about healthcare and changing laws respecting healthcare. It's about giving patients a choice to end their suffering.

"And it's a story that is making its way onto pretty much every radio station and TV news station in the state."

The dialogue about the bill is predominantly positive, Gordon opined, because of "how we framed the argument. The press may not want to hear about individual rights and such, but use the word 'compassion' ... and they have a story."

A RECENT POLL showed that 76 percent of Alabama residents think marijuana should be legalized for medical use

AlaCare's spokesperson, Laura Campbell, is a 32-year-old mother of three who suffers from several debilitating diseases, including three forms of arthritis and fibromyalgia syndrome. In addition, Campbell is allergic to most pain medications and has turned to marijuana for pain management.

Using even the legal, pharmaceutical version of marijuana, Marinol, makes Campbell violently nauseous. Marijuana is the only drug that allows her to simultaneously fight nausea and pain — so her husband buys Campbell's medicine from drug dealers on the street.

And they, knowing the circumstances in which Campbell and her husband find themselves, frequently sell them the medicinal product for a lower price than recreational users pay, or even give

it to them for free.

As Gordon noted to a reporter for the *Huntsville Times*, "It's pretty bad when a drug dealer is more compassionate than the government."

Rep. Hall said she believes the bill can pass in the current legislative session, which is more than halfway finished, as long as legislators are willing to read the bill and vote on it based on what it's actually for.

"I believe this is a matter of choice for individuals with terminal illnesses and chronic pain who have more pain and medical challenges than most of us could ever imagine," she said.

"The bill is along the same general lines as what has been successfully passed in other states," Gordon noted. "However, we have to sell the political message differently in Alabama than in a state like California.

"We hold that state government is more responsive than the federal government in meeting the healthcare needs of its citizens — and that patient care is best served by more of a local approach."

Currently ten states plus D.C. have legalized marijuana for medicinal purposes, with Montana most recently joining the list, Gordon said — adding that Alabama would be the first of the "conservative Christian" southern states where a major effort to legalize marijuana has been made.

"Passage of this bill in Alabama after enactment in Montana should tear down the proverbial wall and allow for such legislation in all fifty states," he said. "This could even steamroll into national legislation."

Under the proposal, people who need to use marijuana for medical reasons would register with the Alabama Department of Public Health. They would be allowed to keep small amounts of the drug without penalty.

The bill would not, however, decriminalize marijuana possession, Hall said.

For more information, go to www.AlaCare.org.

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Ben Brandon: Changing county politics

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

Libertarian Ben Brandon was recently elected to the position of county executive in Dade County, Ga., running on a platform whose primary plank was a promise to eliminate school taxes for people aged 65 and over.

He is keeping his promise.

"As I was going around last year getting signatures to get on the ballot, I would ask people what was on their minds," Brandon explains. "The older people complained that their property taxes were too high. Many of them are living on fixed incomes and can't afford the taxes, most of which is for schools."

Brandon did his research, discovered that several other counties in the state have already removed senior citizens from the property tax rolls for school purposes, and promised to help out the older people in his community.

With this and Brandon's other promises (and qualifications) in mind, the voters of Dade County elected him to office with 66 percent of the runoff vote on Nov. 23, 2004, rejecting the Republican who was seeking the position. Brandon had received 33 percent in the regular election votes, less than the Republican's 40 percent but enough to beat the Democrat, who received 26 percent support.

It was the first partisan election any minor party had won in Georgia since 1968, when George Wallace's American Party carried the state in the presidential election.

But you can be sure the people of Dade County are pleased with their decision: Many of them will likely significantly lower tax bills in coming years.

"I discovered that if you took the senior citizens completely off the property tax rolls for schools, it would only cost the school system \$128,000 per year," Brandon said. "Of course, there is an income limit. Those exempted from school taxes can't have earned income of more than \$10,000 annually."

Although Brandon has done his part, it's not yet a done deal.

After being elected, Brandon contacted his state representative, Martin Scott, who drafted the legislation to exempt senior citizens from this part of their property taxes. The legislation was approved by the state Senate and House in March, and is expected soon to be signed by the governor.

After that, the final decision will return to the voters in Dade County, who will vote in a local referendum on the question in September, Brandon explained — noting that he doesn't expect much opposition to the proposal.

Some people complained it's not fair to cut taxes for only one subset of the taxpaying public while leaving other people's taxes at a higher level. The assumption is that the

people whose taxes will be cut benefited from the area's public schools when they had children in school, so they should continue paying taxes now.

This assumption is incorrect, Brandon opined.

"At the time they had students in school, they were paying property taxes," he said. "At some point, you need to give people a break. And if you listen to the statisticians, there is no good time to cut taxes."

"The problem with education, with government schools, isn't that we tax too little, but that they spend too much. They just need to sharpen their pencils a little more at budget time and get more efficient, rather than continuing to come back to the well and asking taxpayers to pay more and more, without any accountability."

Brandon is also asking other county officials to consider prohibiting students from outside Dade County to attend the county's public schools — unless they pay tuition.

"Our estimate is that about 10 percent of the students in Dade County don't live in the county," he said. "We spend a lot to educate kids who don't even live in this state. I want to make sure we're not educating students from other areas on this county's taxpayer money."

Brandon said several members of the Dade County school board are in favor of taking the senior citizens off the tax rolls — especially seeing that they'll be able to recoup the lost revenue by requiring out-of-state (and out-of-county) students to pay tuition to attend school there.

"At least if the students' parents live in Georgia, they're paying the state income tax from which we get \$4,000 per student, so their tuition would be \$2,000 if they want to continue attending Dade County schools," Brandon said. "For those who live outside the state, the tuition would be \$6,000 per year."

Besides school funding issues, Brandon has also begun cleaning house in the county's tax appraiser office — a process that actually began before he was elected as county executive.

"Last year I discovered that about 80 percent of the tax bills that went out were incorrect, and that about 90 percent of those that were wrong were on the high side," he said. "It appears that the chief appraiser — who resigned after I pointed this out — had been pushing up the value of homes year after year" rather than allowing them to depreciate.

For about two years before he was elected, Brandon wrote a weekly column called the "North Georgia Libertarian" for the *Dade County Sentinel* newspaper. In May 2004 he wrote a column pointing out the problems with the appraiser's office, then left for a missions trip to Africa.

"When I returned from Tanzania 10 days later, I found out that the county commission had called for an audit of that office," Brandon said. "The next week the entire office resigned, right down to the secretary."

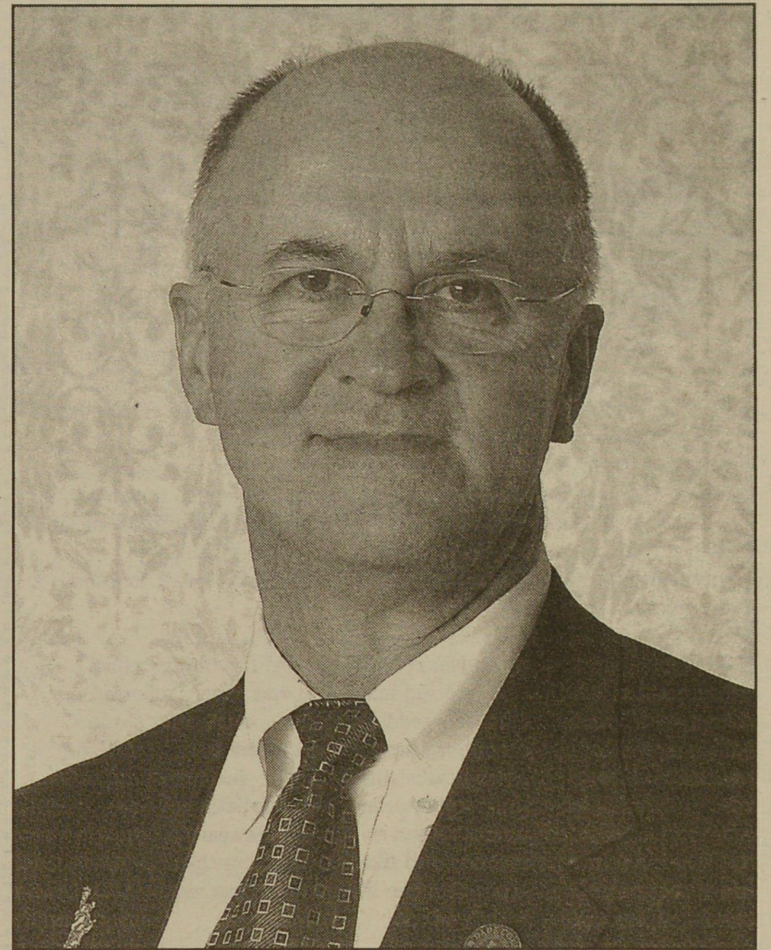
In January, after taking office, Brandon convinced the other county officials to hire a private firm to correct all of the county's tax appraiser errors — just one more way he is trying to save money for the taxpayers.

"I'm promising to fix the tax digest so that when you get a tax bill, you have a good reason to believe it's actually right," he said.

When Brandon was writing his "North Georgia Libertarian" column, he focused primarily on "the stupid things politicians do," he said.

So what does he write about, under the new title "The Commissioner's Corner," since he is now a politician?

Pretty much the same thing, ac-



■ Dade County [Ga.] Executive Ben Brandon

tually.

"I can sometimes use it as a way to outmaneuver the Democrats on the commission," Brandon said, noting that there are three Democrats, one Republican and one Libertarian (himself) on the county commission. "If I want to do something that the Democrats will likely oppose, I'll write something about it and get public support before it goes to a vote," he said.

All these changes proposed or already enacted, and Brandon has been in office for only about four months on a four-year term.

What's next?

"Well, this year we're going to be under budget on expenses and over budget on revenue, so I'm hoping to put some money aside for an emergency fund, and then come up with some policies governing how that money is spent," Brandon said.

"Dade County has no financial policies governing spending. There are no guidelines for what constitutes emergency spending. In the past, if the commission wanted to spend money on something, they could just spend the money without considering whether it was an appropriate expenditure."

"I'm trying to change that."

Wayland, Mass., tax fighters called into action scant months after defeating \$4.2M tax hike

It seems tax proponents just don't learn.

Just a few months after 57 percent of voters in Wayland, Mass., turned down a property tax increase worth \$4.2 million that would have paid for work on a proposed new high school, town officials are putting a new tax hike to the vote.

Another referendum will be held April 26. This time, Wayland officials are asking for \$2.3 million to supplement the school district's \$25.8 million budget. About \$1.5 million of the tax is slated for the town's schools — which would give the school budget a 5.7 percent budget increase in the coming

school year, to \$27.4 million.

By state law, any town's annual tax levy can only increase by 2.5 percent plus an allowance for new growth, unless an extra tax increase is approved in a referendum.

At the last such vote, on Jan. 25, 57 percent of voters opposed the increase, said Carla Howell, a Wayland resident (and former Libertarian candidate for governor) who has actively been fighting taxes in the town.

School officials warn that if the tax isn't approved, teaching positions will be eliminated, and cuts will be made in other town departments.

Rather than threaten taxpayers, government officials learn to take "no" for an answer.

They need to reduce "all nonessential government spending and services — and learn to live within their budget, just like families in Wayland have to do," Howell told a local newspaper.

The referendum in January drew the largest voter turnout for a town election in several years — with 4,650 votes cast in the town of 14,000 residents.

"It was quite remarkable considering that it was January, that there was about two and a half feet of snow, and that many senior

citizens weren't even here to vote," Howell said after that election.

The fact that there was such a good turnout for an election the "selectmen purposely scheduled ... for the dead of winter, when it's hard for some senior citizens to get out of the house" was an indication that the voters in Wayland simply don't want any more tax hikes, she noted.

But town officials didn't get the message, and are trying again.

If the tax increase proposal passes at the Wayland election, it will also have to be approved at the annual town meeting that will begin two days after the vote.

POLITICS 2005

Pig Book, Tax Day and natural resources

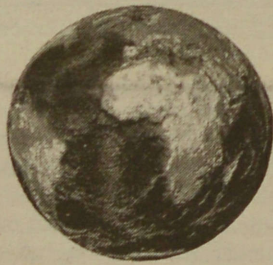
■ The annual *Congressional Pig Book*, put out by Citizens Against Government Waste, was released in mid-April. Citizens Against Government Waste is a nationwide taxpayer watchdog group, with more than a million members and supporters. The *Pig Book* profiles the "most egregious pork projects approved by Congress," according to CAGW, including \$70,000 approved in the federal budget this year for the Paper Industry International Hall of Fame in Appleton, Wis. And the book names those responsible for the pork in the budget.



■ A postmistress in Great Falls, Montana, was sentenced to 10 days of probation recently for throwing away junk mail rather than tucking it in to post office boxes in the Blackfoot Indian Reservation's post office. She took early retirement after her indictment in November on a felony mail destruction count, and pleaded guilty after prosecutors reduced the charge to a misdemeanor. The judge called the prosecution "an overzealous use of the power of the court to affect the lives of our citizens."

■ When a Minnesota teenager recently opened fire on his school mates before ultimately shooting himself, it was widely reported in the news media that he was a regular visitor — and poster — on a Web site called www.nazi.org, which is the site of a group called the "Libertarian National Socialist Green Party." The group, which is in no way related to the Libertarian, Green or National Socialist parties, apparently took the name so that people searching for one of the political parties would likely stumble on their Web site. Some Libertarians are trying to see if there is a legal way to get the organization to change its name.

■ The Objectivist Center's Ed Hutchins pointed out in an April column that reports that humans are using up all of the Earth's natural resources — and that mankind is in danger because we're destroying the planet — are mistaken. The same human minds that come up with ways to use resources are also capable of coming up with ways to resolve any resource shortages, Hudgins opined, noting that "our minds are the ultimate resource and our only fear should be of restrictions on our freedom to use them."



■ Oklahoma's *Muskogee Phoenix* newspaper on April 17 included an editorial calling for the federal government to take money that it has been spending for methamphetamine task forces and divert the money to rehab programs "for people who recognize they have a problem and want help." The White House wants to eliminate funding for the anti-drug units. "Move [the funding] to programs that will change lives," it said. "In recent years, the state has simply increased its county jail and prison loads, and the state's drug problem is not going away."

■ Bad news from the Montana LP: Early in April, the state Senate approved a statewide smoking ban, and the governor said he will sign the bill — meaning that "choice and competition are now out the window" for business owners who want to allow their patrons to smoke, said state LP Chair Mike Fellows. Also, the state House approved a ban on driving with an open container of alcohol in the vehicle, despite the fact that most cities and counties in the state already have such laws. On the plus side, a proposed bill to make seatbelt use a primary offense was killed on a vote of 48-52.

■ On April 16, the day after Tax Day, the Fort Wayne, Ind., *Journal Gazette* published a photo of 7-year-old Rigel Jaquish, taken as he sat on a stool on April 15, in front of the city's main post office. "The Libertarian Party entertained last-minute tax-return filers with signs, literature and a street theater about the national debt and taxes," the paper reported. Jaquish's connection to the "street theater?" He had a weight chained to his leg, with a sign saying, "I owe \$26,351," and another saying, "My share of YOUR national debt."

■ Got a good Tax Day story you'd like to share? Please e-mail it to LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud at editor@hq.lp.org, or mail it to LP News, c/o The Libertarian Party, 2600 Virginia Ave. NW Suite 100, Washington DC, 20037. And move quickly. A compilation of these experiences will be published in the June 2005 issue of LP News, provided they are received by May 12.

Surprise Libertarian win

Continued from Page 1

election. "I had no intention of running and I put nothing out about it. I had no idea that anybody was even thinking about voting for me."

But in the end, almost everyone who voted did so by writing Thompson's name on the ballot. He earned 31 votes to the three votes his opponent received.

And one of the votes for Buick was from Thompson himself — who said he actually thought Buick would do a good job as alderman.

Thompson isn't new to politics. From 2000 to 2002, he served as mayor of Tomah, a town of 9,000 people, which has eight aldermen on its council. And he drew 10.5 percent of the vote in a three-way race for governor of Wisconsin in 2002 — earning 185,000 votes.

He'd never served on the city council, though, and he wasn't sure he wanted to. After being elected he had to decide whether or not he was interested in serving.

Thompson admitted he was leaning toward the "no thanks" decision, but changed his mind out of a desire to give the voters what they asked for.

"I am honored by the confidence the people of Tomah have shown by electing me to serve them, and I would be shirking my responsibility and duty if I were to decline," he said.

"I received just a deluge of phone calls, asking me to reconsider. And when I thought about all the people who don't get involved in politics, and how often I've told people they really should get involved in local politics, I had to say yes."

Even if there were only 34 votes, it's hard to say no when 91 percent of the voters want you to lead them.

Thompson was sworn in on April 15 and will serve a two-year term.

So he'll be heading back into familiar ground: Five of the current aldermen were on the council when Thompson was mayor. And the current mayor, Chuck Ludeking, was an alderman when Thompson was mayor.

Thompson said he looks forward to remaining involved in the Libertarian Party, and he certainly expects "to be working with Arif Khan, who was elected chair, as much as I can. I want to do the best we can for the party and for the state."

"I really had no intention at the time of ever getting involved in politics again — or at least not anytime soon," he said. "I think that fact is what's drawing a lot of the attention. There have been a lot of radio interviews about the fact that I won this election. I'm shocked that it's drawn this much interest."

Among other news mentions, the fact that Thompson won this election was widely circulated in a newspaper article printed all over the state, courtesy of the Associated Press.



■ Ed Thompson, at left, greets one of his many supporters following an address to the "People's Legislature" in Madison on Jan. 4. At the time, Thompson was chairman of the Wisconsin LP. More than 1,100 people attended the event, including Libertarians, Greens, Republicans and Democrats. An editorial in *The Capital Times* pointed out that Thompson's appeal has grown significantly since he ran for governor on the LP ticket in 2002. "Indeed, his rabble-rousing speech ... at the People's Legislature gathering ... was one of the highlights of that event," the author noted.

(Photo by Dave Hendrickson)

And as the editorialist for the *Capital Times* piece noted, "It's reassuring to know that he hasn't given up politics."

Of course, that was written before Thompson's unexpected victory. When it was written, the editorialist apparently was hoping Thompson would choose to run again for statewide office. And he's not alone.

"In 2002, Thompson was the most successful third-party gubernatorial candidate the state has seen since the 1940s," the op-ed said. "And his appeal has, if anything, grown. Thompson is still angry about the same things that drew him into politics, first as the mayor of Tomah and then as a gubernatorial candidate."

"He despises big-money campaigns, special interest influence and the silly partisanship that prevents state government from addressing even the most basic issues."

"As such, he is more in tune with Wisconsinites than most of the people who currently occupy high stations in the Capitol. And it is for that reason that so many Wisconsinites hope Thompson will continue to entertain the prospect of making another run for statewide office."

So is another run for statewide office in Thompson's future? For now, he's not saying.

But Thompson will have to bear in mind what he learned in the Tomah election: You don't have to run to win, as long as enough people want you in office.

Several other Wisconsin Libertarians were also elected — or re-elected — to office on April 5.

Newly elected Libertarians include Don Merkes, who defeated an incumbent for a position as alderman in Menasha, and Don Carlson, who won his race with almost two-thirds of the vote to become an alderman in Greenfield.

Re-elected Libertarians included Jay Allen, elected to the city council in Fitchburg; Patricia Stanislawski, elected chairwoman in Dexter; and Denis Kenealy, elected to city council in Erin.

"The election of three new Libertarians, along with some key re-elections, shows that Wisconsin trusts Libertarians to run their local governments," Arif Khan said. "We believe that government is best at the local level and we're pleased that Wisconsin voters want Libertarians serving them."

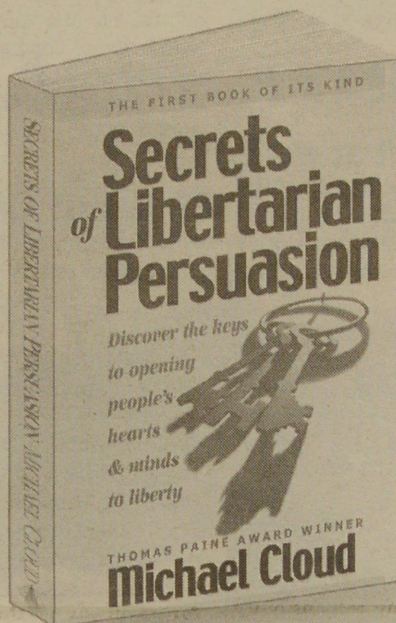
"I have always maintained that people are the ultimate power, and citizens of Tomah have made that point abundantly clear by electing Ed Thompson. Let this be a turning point in our effort to take back our rights and power from those who feel we are too stupid to govern ourselves."

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➤ "*Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion* will change the way you talk about politics. You'll start seeing results almost immediately." — **Sharon Harris**, President, Advocates for Self-Government

➤ "A book by the master of libertarian persuasion. This is modeled after the dozens of seminars and personal training sessions he's conducted — all leading to rave reviews from people who have used his techniques with great success." — **Harry Browne**, two-time Libertarian Party presidential candidate

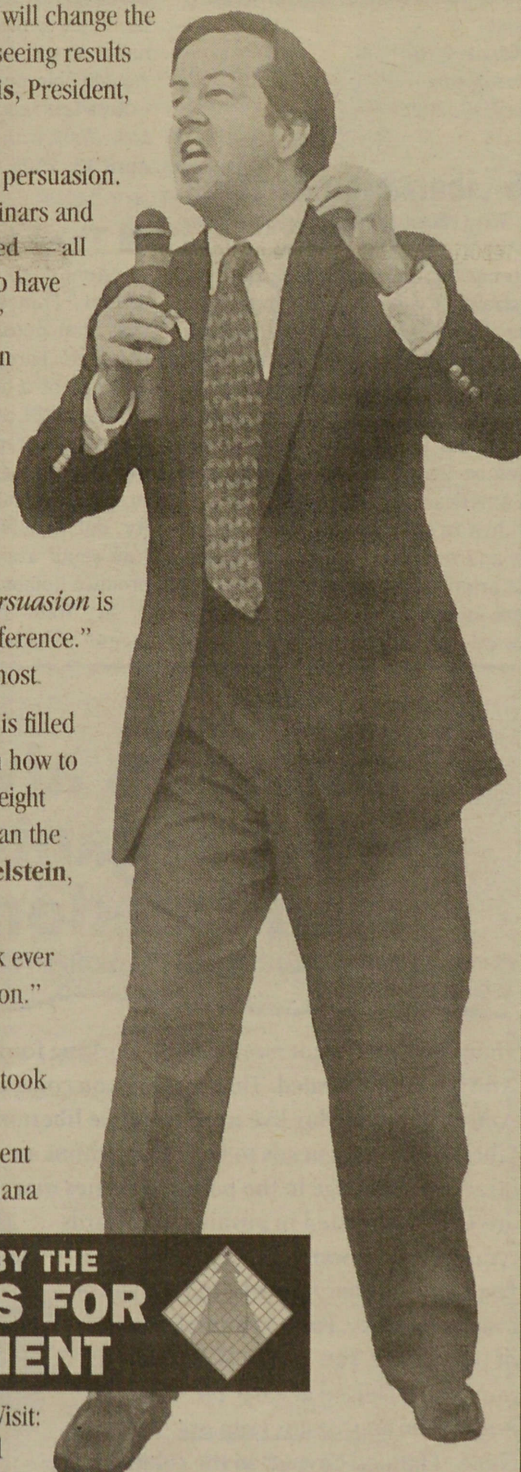
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LPN MAY 05

TALKING POINTS

The Patriot Act, video games, Congress and other indecency

Church and state

Hamid Pourmand is scheduled to go on trial in Iran for converting to Christianity from Islam and seeking to convert others to Christianity. He faces the death penalty if convicted.

Pourmand, a member of the Assembly of God church and a former colonel in the Iranian army, has already been convicted by a military court of lying to his superiors about his conversion. Christians are not allowed to serve as officers in the army. Pourmand was sentenced to three years in jail at that trial. He also lost his pension, and his wife and children were evicted from their home.

—CHARLES OLIVER
Reason.com
April 12, 2005

Libertarian heritage

Why does libertarianism never entirely disappear, despite every attempt to kill it? In part, because a strain of American ideology from the colonial period to the present supports it. Murray Rothbard's four-volume *Conceived in Liberty* demonstrates that the theory and practice of radical libertarian thinking can even be thought of as the very core of American political values.

Just to cite one case, the preachers and religious leaders who spoke out prior to the American revolution were knowledgeable of and friendly toward the liberal tradition. They

cited Locke as freely as they cited the Bible.

This is our heritage. It is also why every president appeals to libertarian ideals to gain public backing. Clinton did, and Bush does as well. They all invoke Jeffersonian rhetoric. The problem is that the middle class continues to be bamboozled by this rhetoric...

—LLEWELLYN H. ROCKWELL, JR.
LewRockwell.com
March 29, 2005

Playing president

They claim now that President Bush spends two hours a day playing video games. ... Here's the good news: That's two hours less that he spends being president.

—DAVID LETTERMAN
Late Night with David Letterman
April 13, 2005

Time to invade?

"Almost six out of 10 adults in Britain, France and Germany say that Iran does not pose a nuclear threat to Europe, according to the findings of a new CNN/TIME poll," reports CNN.com. "Iran says its nuclear program is nothing for the world to fear and will only be used to generate much-needed electricity. But Washington and the EU fear Iran could use its nuclear plants to produce bombs."

In "Iran: Isolation or Engagement?" Charles Peña, director of

defense policy studies at the Cato Institute, writes, "Iran is considered a long-standing nemesis. But that doesn't automatically make it a grave threat."

—HOLIDAY DMITRI, EDITOR
Cato Daily Dispatch
March 30, 2005

Patriot Act at work

FBI agents used provisions of the USA Patriot Act during their investigation last year of a Portland [Ore.] attorney who was wrongly jailed for two weeks on suspicion of involve-

ment in the Madrid train bombings, according to a Justice Department letter.

The Patriot Act allows for covert searches of homes, without conventional search warrants.

Brandon Mayfield was jailed last May after his fingerprint was incorrectly matched to one found on a bag of detonators near the scene of the Madrid attack, which killed 191 people. He was released after the FBI admitted its mistake.

Mayfield, a Muslim convert, has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, contending his rights were violated by his arrest and by the investigation against him. He also contends that the Patriot Act is unconstitutional.

Mayfield's attorneys sent a letter to the Justice Department in February seeking an order compelling the U.S. Attorney General to inform Mayfield about any electronic surveillance that was conducted during the investigation and any secret searches.

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In response, the Justice Department sent a letter acknowledging FBI agents searched Mayfield's house under provisions of the Patriot Act.

The letter provides new details about the investigation against Mayfield, stating that agents seized three hard drives, 10 DNA samples preserved on cotton swabs and took 335 digital photographs of personal effects in his home.

—KOIN.COM
March 30, 2005

Allowed to die

It took almost a week, but they finally buried the pope. It would have been faster, but as of last month, no one dies now without permission of Congress.

—BILL MAHER
Real Time with Bill Maher
April 6, 2005

Second Amendment

No handgun can be registered in D.C. Even pistols registered prior to the District's 1976 ban cannot be carried

from room to room in the home without a license, which is never granted. Essentially, no one in the District can possess a functional firearm.

And the law applies not just to unfit persons like felons, minors, or the mentally incompetent, but across-the-board to ordinary, honest, responsible citizens.

It's time for the D.C. Circuit, and perhaps the U.S. Supreme Court, to tell us whether the city's total ban on all functional weapons withstands scrutiny under the Second Amendment.

No one should have to break the law in order to vindicate a constitutional right.

—ROBERT A. LEVY AND ALAN GURA
Cato Daily Commentary
March 23, 2005

Indecency

The chairman of one of the entertainment industry's most important congressional committees wants to take indecency prosecutions into the criminal realm.

Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner III, R-Wis., told cable industry executives attending the National Cable & Telecommunications Association conference [in San Francisco] that criminal prosecution would be a more efficient way to enforce the indecency regulations.

"I'd prefer using the criminal

process rather than the regulatory process," Sensenbrenner told the executives.

"That is the way to go. Aim the cannon specifically at the people committing the offenses, rather than the blunderbuss approach that gets the good actors."

It was unclear exactly how he would go about further criminalizing the indecency statutes. Typically, the FCC notifies the alleged offender and, if no settlement is reached, issues a fine.

—BROOKS BOLIEK
TheHollywoodReporter.com
April 5, 2005

Benefits of crisis?

Youthful exponents of the freedom philosophy sometimes believe that things will get better politically only if they first get worse. As statism brings its inevitable hardships, people will correctly identify the causes of their adversity and demand a rollback of government power.

The Russian Revolution, which grew out of a miserable war, seems to support the theory that bad can lead to revolutionary change. But there's one hitch.

The Bolsheviks sought an increase in state power. Libertarians seek a vast reduction. That a crisis can lead to socialism — indeed, totalitarianism — is no evidence that it can lead to capitalism.

—SHELDON RICHMAN
The Freeman
March 2005

Conflict

Strange bedfellows Sens. Rick Santorum, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John Kerry have introduced a bill in Congress that would require employers to accommodate religious employees. "No American should have to face the choice between practicing their faith or working at their job. It's that simple," said Kerry.

Meanwhile, some California legislators want to require pharmacists to dispense all lawful drugs, even if they have moral objections to birth control or to "morning-after pills," which some people consider a form of abortion.

What happens if Congress passes the Workplace Religious Freedom Act and California passes a law requiring pharmacists to fill prescriptions?

In that case, a California pharmacist would apparently have both a right to exercise his moral beliefs in doing his job and a legal obligation to fill prescriptions even if they violate his conscience. So which is it?

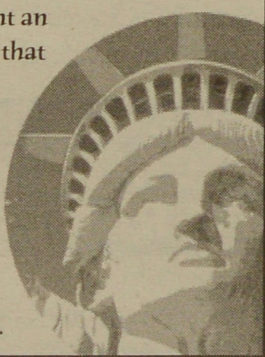
Does he get punished for not giving out the prescription, or do his employers get punished if they require him to fill the prescription to keep his job?

—DAVID BOAZ
San Francisco Examiner
April 12, 2005

"Tyranny is always better organized than freedom."

—CHARLES PEGUY, FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1873-1914)

That's not all: It's got more people working for it, too. And it's better funded. That's where you come in. If you want America to someday live up to its noble libertarian ideals, the Libertarian Party needs to be able to mount an effective challenge to the political parties that are more interested in pushing us towards tyranny than towards liberty. How can you help? By naming the LP in your will or insurance policy. For a private discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 340-6151. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



LP experiencing continued membership growth

Hard on the heels of the first full year of LP membership growth in several years, the first quarter of 2005 saw continued growth — and March provided the largest monthly increase in membership in nine months.

"Membership increased by 466 in March, and we have had 2.4 percent growth in membership between the end of 2004 (22,177) and the end of March, when it had grown to 22,706," said LP Development Coor-

dinator Jessica Neno Wilson.

"We had 337 new members sign up in March and 1,528 Libertarian Party members renewed their memberships," she said.

"It just so happened that several states sent in their 'join via state' memberships all at the same time, significantly boosting our figures for the month. And that was on top of the 337 new members that we gained through prospecting."

The LP's membership growth in

2004 ended a four-year-long slump. Membership at the end of 2003 was 21,043, a number that grew to 22,177 by the end of 2004 — more than 5 percent growth.

And in the past 12 months (between March 2004 and March 2005) the party grew by 1,474 members — almost 7 percent growth.

"The 2.1 percent increase in membership in March is the largest monthly increase since June 2004, when it shot up by 3.16 percent right

after the national convention," Wilson added. "The new members who signed up were a result of the recent prospecting we've done."

"Membership growth is a result of so many different variables — and what the numbers are telling us is that over the past year we have done different things right at different times."

"This growth is a function of solid customer service leading to member retention, good outreach, and

seamless communication between the state parties and the national office. Sometimes we are better at some aspects than others; now we need to focus on getting it all right at the same time."

"So many different things contribute to whether people will join or renew their membership, or return to the party after lapsing. We need to take a multi-faceted approach, not focusing on one thing at the expense of others."

Rob Oates: Standing up for property rights

Continued from Page 1

speak out. They've noticed that I'm willing to stand up to the others on the council."

Because of this stand, he said, he has been encouraged many times to seek higher level office, such as a state House seat.

And he's considering it, though he says he's not sure it's "in the picture, in the immediate future. I personally think I could do well at a higher level, but the compromises probably become more difficult, even if the philosophical principles become clearer at the state level, as I believe they would," Oates said.

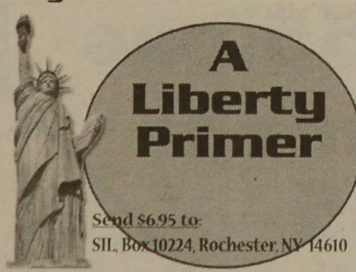
When he isn't taking care of city business, Oates is the store director for an Ace Hardware store in Boise, the state capital. He is 48 years old, has a wife and three children, and volunteers with the Civil Air Patrol, piloting a search-and-rescue plane.

He learned to fly while in the Army, in which he served for 10 years — as a tank officer, then as a Huey and Cobra helicopter pilot, then as a commander in Korea, and lastly as a weapons test pilot for the Cobra helicopter at the Yuma Proving Grounds in Arizona.

"Now I've been associated with the Civil Air Patrol for about 12 years in several places around the United States. It's a good community service operation, and I've been involved in several lifesaving searches. Besides, working with kids in the CAP helps keep me young."

"You can't help but stay young when you're overseeing a bunch of rowdy teenagers."

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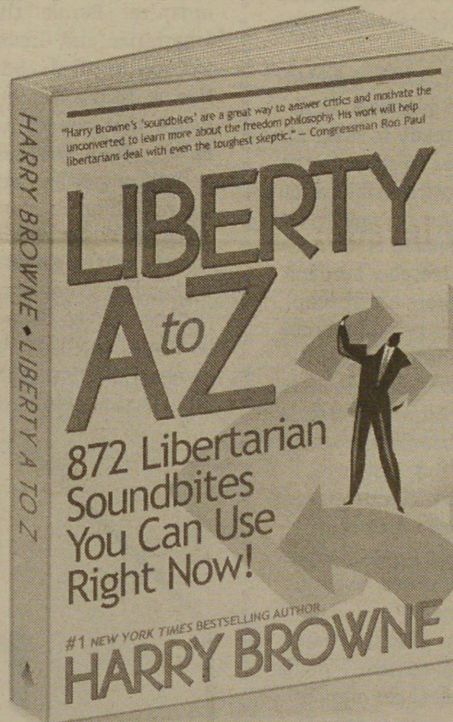
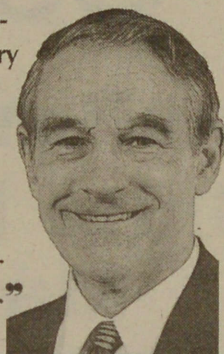
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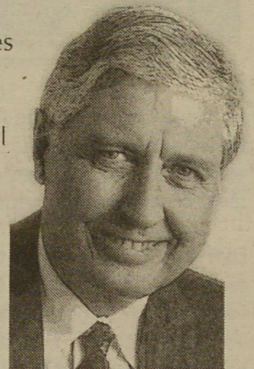
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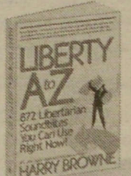
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LPN MAY 05

THE REVIEW

Resistance is not futile

■ *The Black Arrow*, by Vin Suprynowicz. 703 pages. Published April 15, 2005 by Mountain Media. Softcover, \$24.95. Available at www.LibertyBookShop.us. ISBN 0-9762516-0-4.

Reviewed by Dr. Paul Gallant and Dr. Joanne D. Eisen
SENIOR FELLOWS, THE INDEPENDENCE INSTITUTE

In *The Black Arrow*, his first novel, Vin Suprynowicz — author of *Send in the Waco Killers* and *The Ballad of Carl Drega* — combines Libertarian political fiction with science fiction and uses comic-book characters as heroes and heroines to create a style uniquely his own.

In a resistance novel set 25 years in the future, with a secessionist civil war in the West as a backdrop to the action, "wherever the weak or the oppressed cry out in pain or fear ... the Black Arrow lives."



It may be a "novel" set in the future, but it is filled with actual contemporary firearm facts and incidents, and today's politically-correct anti-gun agenda.

Sept. 11, 2001. We're told our world has been changed by what transpired on that fateful day. But that's not true. What is true is that the grand illusion of American safety has been shattered. We never were safe. It just took an attack on our soil to cause that realization to finally sink in. And now, Americans desperately want their illusion back.

The events of Sept. 11 have added a new twist to an old question: Shall

we trade liberty for the illusion of safety? Many are ready to make the trade, and many of this country's politicians are eager to show us the way. What occurred was exactly opposite to Suprynowicz's Libertarian ideal of minimal government, giving him more grist for his novel.

The tale begins in a United States beset with abysmally crafted laws that turn the country into a police state, placing intolerable burdens on its productive citizens. For example, not only is there a real property tax, but Suprynowicz envisions the existence of a personal property tax. Into this mix, he adds a "Sonic Net," a device which has the capability of informing police where a firearm has been discharged and the circumstances around that discharge. There is a Total Information Awareness Program, busily collecting and collating information on all citizens. Big Brother is in full force "protecting" us from violence.

Suprynowicz theorizes the invention of a device which can prevent a firearm from discharging. This can be activated from a distance. However, Suprynowicz turns the tables on government forces, because they are the ones who use firearms. When the device is deactivated, the government weapons do not work against citizens.

At one point in *The Black Arrow*, American citizens liberate a jail and courthouse from government hands, using "people power," similar to the Filipino revolution against Marcos in which the sheer mass of angry citizens prevented stunned government forces from reacting.

We watch as these ordinary citizens react — observing how American culture will always resist tyranny, as people all over the world are learning to do, spurred on by our example.

This spontaneous resistance is cultivated and guided by the Black Arrow, a blood-and-guts hero, and his army of angry men and women — American warriors.

There is non-stop action, from the assassination of familiar politicians, to a climactic take-down of the Sonic Net and the entire government computer network.

And then, mindful of counter-revolutionary problems, the Black Arrow fades into the sunset.

Fair warning: This book includes graphic sex scenes, especially the descriptions of government-sanctioned rape rooms. But because the Black Arrow is generally monogamous, the lurid sex scenes of an earlier resistance novel, *Unintended Consequences*, are absent. In their place, we participate in our hero's romantic dilemma: Will he end up with the beautiful sophisticate, or the smoldering warrior maiden?

The Black Arrow is a great read. Do not wait for the movie; truth, justice and the American way are too politically incorrect for the big screen.

No matter. This is a big book in more than one way.

■ **About the reviewers:** Dr. Paul Gallant and Dr. Joanne Eisen are both senior fellows at the Independence Institute. They frequently co-author articles and have been published in the *Texas Review of Law and Politics*, *National Review Online* and the *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, among many others.

LP honored at election reform event

By Sean Haugh

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NORTH CAROLINA LP

Libertarian National Committee Vice Chair R. Lee Wrights was a featured speaker at the National Election Reform Conference in Nashville, Tenn., April 8-10 — which was sponsored by Gathering To Save Our Democracy, bringing together a coalition of activists who support verifiable voting and election reform across the country.

Wright was invited so the LP could be thanked — along with the Green Party — for the two parties' joint election recount efforts in Ohio, New Mexico and other states.

He shared the stage with Green Party presidential candidate David Cobb. LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik joined with Cobb in demanding the recounts to ensure the votes were properly counted.

"We were excited to have a chance to honor the Libertarian Party for its courage, its seriousness and its fundamentally American response to this problem," conference organizer Bernie Ellis said. "The Libertarian and Green parties acted the way we all should have acted on Nov. 4. In the face of the same evidence that should have concerned us all, those two parties stood up and did something about it."

According to the event's initial press release, the nonpartisan conference was organized to bring together the major players who have surfaced in the dialogue over problems with the 2004 election and the need for election reform. More than 100 election reform advocates from

30 states attended the conference.

The LP also was listed as a supporting organization for the event.

Nine political parties were represented. Other organizations involved with the conference include Velvet Revolution, Common Cause, FreePress.org, Democratic Underground and the NAACP.

In his remarks to the audience, Wrights said, "instead of you thanking us, we should be thanking you. The only way true reform will come about is when individuals come together and say 'we've had enough.' If we go away today from this conference with nothing else it should be a unity in insisting that every voice be heard, that every vote be counted."

Cobb also had kind words for Libertarians.

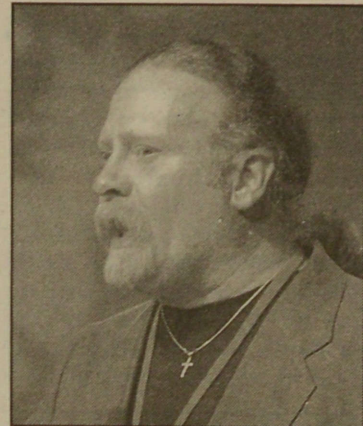
"I have tremendous respect and admiration for the principled positions Libertarians take," he said. "On the campaign trail, I developed genuine affection for Libertarians because they are honest."

After his speech, Wrights spoke of the importance of joining with other election reform advocates.

"There's strength in numbers — and the issues of election reform, ballot access and verifiable voting are common among all parties," he said. "The LP has always been a leader on these issues. It is appropriate and necessary for us to reach out to these affinity groups."

Wright also read a statement from LNC Chair Michael Dixon.

"Thank you to everyone who is attending this conference and to everyone across the country and



■ R. Lee Wrights

around the world who is working for electoral reform," Dixon wrote. "The conduct of our elections is critical to secure and maintain our liberty."

"The Libertarian Party has long advocated verifiable voting systems, ballot access reform, proportional representation and other measures which place the political power in America where it belongs, in the hands of the people. The need for renewed integrity of our electoral systems has never been greater. We are proud to be able to work with anyone who shares this goal."

Ellis addressed the importance of Libertarian involvement at the local as well as the national level.

"We've had Libertarians with us since our second public meeting in Tennessee," he said. "We've learned to count on each other. Every American should be thankful that the Libertarian Party stood up, showed up and stood firm against what are still unresolved problems about the integrity of our voting process."

Do you think
marijuana
should be treated
like alcohol?
Say So!
MAKEPOTLEGAL555.ORG
Unite For Freedom
May 5, 2005

Carla Howell invites You to visit her new Center for Small Government **Action Website**

Today's Big Government is way too big, too powerful, too costly, too nosy and too bossy.

Big Government regularly and repeatedly infringes on and deprives us of life, liberty and property.

The only way to expand liberty is to shrink government. The only way to restore liberty is make government small.

Do you agree?

The Center for Small Government seeks to dismantle, reduce, and remove Big Government policies and programs. Our mission is to make government small.

Here are just a few things you'll discover at our Center for Small Government Action Website:

- ✓ Why do the 5 Iron Laws of Big Government slash through the Gordian Knot of No-Win political arguments?
- ✓ Want to see through and expose the phony government spending "Cuts" of Big Government politicians? The Weight Watchers Test for Big Government does the job.
- ✓ Do you know why "small government is beautiful?"
- ✓ Why Does Small Government Plus One Exception Always Result in Big Government?
- ✓ "The Bonsai Remedy": the small government compass that guides our libertarian efforts.

- ✓ Are you engaging in these "Random Acts of Liberty?" Are you involved in libertarian efforts that waste time and money — and don't advance the cause of liberty one iota?
- ✓ Why the theory and practice of "Limited Government" is fatally flawed. Why advancing "small government" is the only way to advance libertarianism.
- ✓ "The Bonfire Test" for Big Government will let you see why government spending hurts us far more than taxes do.
- ✓ Orwell's Secret. Why libertarians are shut out of political conversations. How and why we can and must re-define the political landscape, reframe the political debate, introduce the language of liberty — and change politics from liberal vs. conservative to Big Government vs. small government.
- ✓ "The Big Government Bias Spotter" Game. A fast, fun, effective way to learn to detect and correct the Big Government Bias in Newspapers, Magazines, Textbooks, TV and Radio Political coverage and commentary. Your political and economic conversations will take on a new zest and excitement.
- ✓ The secret strength of "the Small Government Pledge." Whatever your level of involvement and activism, "the Small Government Pledge" guarantees maximum libertarian impact.
- ✓ "You Can Fight City Hall — and Win!" Believe it or not, you and 3 neighbors can defeat a tax increase, roll back a government spending hike, or run a tax cut. In your spare time. With an embarrassingly small amount of work and money. See exactly how libertarians like you have done it.

- ✓ Why small government is possible.
- ✓ Simple things you can do to make government small. Some take 4 minutes. Some take 40. None require a Ph.D. or heavy lifting. Small things can make a big difference.
- ✓ Why tax limitation is not enough. Why "holding the line" on government spending and power leads to ever-growing Big Government.
- ✓ "Reading diet books won't make you thin. Reading exercise books won't make you fit. Reading libertarian books won't make you free. If you want small government and freedom, you must act."
— Michael Cloud

The Center for Small Government offers you all this and more. We show you the key differences between small government and Big Government. You'll discover how to leverage liberty with language. You'll learn what to do to make government small — and how to do it. Step by step. Simple as A-B-C. And we'll share libertarian success stories with you. Not just the results or highlights. Exactly what they did. How they did it. What worked and what didn't. News you can use.

Carla Howell is the President and Founder of the Center for Small Government. She spearheaded the 2002 ballot initiative to End the State Income Tax in Massachusetts, which won an unprecedented 45% of the vote.

Michael Cloud works with Ms. Howell. He is a legendary Libertarian Party activist and the author of *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

You're invited! Please go online now and click on the Center for Small Government Action Website:

www.CenterForSmallGovernment.com

THE PROFILE

Author Karen Kay

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

The words "libertarian" and "romance" are not often linked, but best-selling novelist Karen Kay has built a successful career that combines the two.

In her popular and historically accurate series of romance novels set in the 19th century American West, she merges sensual romantic plots with the unobtrusive message that Native American "tribes held individual freedom as being of the utmost importance."

Kay, perhaps best known as the author of *Lakota Princess* (1995) and *Gray Hawk's Lady* (1997), is matter-of-fact about her political beliefs. "I am a libertarian," she said in a February 2005 interview with the Advocates for Self-Government.



"[I believe] that freedom of the individual to decide for himself those things that influence his well-being should be under his own control. That one should have the right to one's own life and to decide what one's path in life will be. That big governments are seldom helpful or sympathetic to a people and that no one man or group has the right to destroy the freedom or the self-determinism of another."

What inspired those libertarian beliefs? Kay points to Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Paine.

"I agree with their views and aims," she said. "I agree that a people should be

free, and I agree that the individual citizen should have a say in his government ... Freedom to speak out, freedom to choose, freedom to worship as one sees fit, freedom to follow one's own goals — these things are that important."

Kay's libertarian convictions are subtly woven into the plots of her novels. "The heroes and heroines of my stories are honorable people," she said. "And in truth, before the incoming Euro-American culture diversified the Plains Indian culture, the tribes held individual freedom as being of the utmost importance."

A descendent of the Choctaw tribe, Kay sets her books among the tribes of America's Great Plains, where romance blossoms between a Native American warrior and a white woman.

Each book is the product of "exhaustive research," Kay said. She reads first-person accounts from 19th century travelers, visits the locations described in her books and consults with Native American leaders. Her goal is to make all her novels historically accurate, she said. "My books center upon the American Indian culture as it was — a true picture, not colored with the sensationalism of death and destruction as was depicted by [outsiders]," she wrote in her blog (www.blogstudio.com/karencay/).

Kay published her first romance, *Lakota Surrender*, in 1994. Since then, she has written *Proud Wolf's Woman* (1996), *White Eagle's Touch* (1998), *Night Thunder's Bride* (1999), *Wolf Shadow's Promise* (2000), *War Cloud's Passion* (2001), *Lone Arrow's Pride* (2002), *Soaring Eagle's Embrace* (2003), *The Princess and the Wolf* (2004), and *The Angel and the Warrior* (September 2005). *The Literary Times* has praised Kay's novels for their "thorough research, talented writing and strong characters," while *Romantic Times* called them "a fine introduction for anyone interested in exploring [Native American] culture."

In an interview, Kay said she works in the romance genre because romance writers "point the way to how love could be, if one is ethical and honest. Life is not always about betrayal and strife. In my opinion, it's up to the artist to set the tone of a society... I think that we should point the way to how life could be, and how good life could be created."

Kay also works to make a better life for Native Americans: She supports the World Literacy Crusade, Blackfeet Literacy, and the Hollywood Education and Literacy Project (HELP).

For any would-be writers who might want to follow in her footsteps, Kay offers some very libertarian-sounding advice on the WritersAndReadersNetwork.com Web site: "Stay true to yourself and your ambitions, and don't allow others to alloy your view of what you want and need to accomplish in your life."

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

Death tax repeal goes to Senate

Continued from Page 1

be able to take 50 percent of it to spend as they please."

"We're going to see if there's a chance of still getting a vote on H.R. 64," said Carrie Simms of the American Family Business Institute. "I don't know if that's going to happen. But the fact that we got a good vote yesterday on H.R. 8 is definitely a good sign."

The House approved H.R. 8 in a 272-172 vote, with 42 Democrats joining Republicans in voting to make the death tax repeal permanent.

The primary problem with H.R. 8 is that it wouldn't take effect for five more years, Seehusen said.

"So much could happen in the next five years that could reverse this decision, resulting in a renewal of the death tax," he said. "It would certainly be preferable to have H.R. 64 approved, allowing for a retroactive repeal of the tax. However, H.R. 8 is a full and total repeal of this invasive tax, and that's ultimately what we want."

Simms agreed, saying she is also concerned about the potentially crippling compromise that opponents of H.R. 8 will try to work into the bill in the Senate.

"We need to apply all the pressure we can on our senators, telling them we don't want a compromise," she said.

"Compromise would be a huge threat to our goal of total repeal of this tax. Simply put, death should not be a taxable event. We want total repeal, and we want it sooner

rather than later."

H.R. 8 will face strong opposition in the Senate, where Republican leaders have authorized Sen. Jon Kyl (R-Ariz.) to come up with a compromise that will win 60 votes — enough to prevent a Democrat-led filibuster.

One possible compromise would be to exempt all estates up to \$10 million from the tax, and to set a

15 percent tax rate (similar to the capital gains tax) for estates worth more than \$10 million.

Senate Democrats and others fighting the death tax repeal need to realize one thing: "Americans deserve to keep the money that was earned by their parents during their lifetimes," Seehusen said.

"That's a stance on which we simply cannot compromise."

U.S. SENATORS TO CONTACT

While it is important for all U.S. Senators to be reminded to vote in support of the bill to repeal the death tax, it is of utmost importance to contact your senator if he or she is one of the Democrats and Republicans who have supported anti-tax bills in the past — or those who are up for re-election soon and will be seeking to make voters happy. In order to avoid a filibuster, 60 Senators must support this bill. So far, it will likely be supported by 53 of the 55 Republicans, meaning that seven Democrats from the list below need to be convinced. Please call your senators.

| STATE | SENATOR | PHONE NUMBER |
|--------------|------------------|----------------|
| Arkansas | Blanche Lincoln | (202) 224-4843 |
| Arkansas | Mark Pryor | (202) 224-2353 |
| California | Dianne Feinstein | (202) 224-3841 |
| Colorado | Ken Salazar | (202) 224-5852 |
| Delaware | Thomas Carper | (202) 224-2441 |
| Florida | Bill Nelson | (202) 224-5274 |
| Hawaii | Daniel Akaka | (202) 224-6361 |
| Indiana | Evan Bayh | (202) 224-5623 |
| Louisiana | Mary Landrieu | (202) 224-5824 |
| Michigan | Debbie Stabenow | (202) 224-4822 |
| Minnesota | Mark Dayton | (202) 224-3244 |
| Montana | Max Baucus | (202) 224-2651 |
| Nebraska | Ben Nelson | (202) 224-6551 |
| Nevada | Harry Reid | (202) 224-3542 |
| New Mexico | Jeff Bingaman | (202) 224-5521 |
| North Dakota | Kent Conrad | (202) 224-2043 |
| North Dakota | Byron Dorgan | (202) 224-2551 |
| Oregon | Ron Wyden | (202) 224-5244 |
| South Dakota | Tim Johnson | (202) 224-5842 |
| Washington | Maria Cantwell | (202) 224-3441 |
| Washington | Patty Murray | (202) 224-2621 |

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freestateproject.org/festival

AFFILIATE NEWS

Fighting taxes, writing op-eds and opposing a murder trial

■ CALIFORNIA

LP fights proposed school district tax

Libertarians in San Mateo County, Calif., are fighting a proposed new tax that would take \$3.3 million per year from property owners to help fund the Redwood City School District.

Approving the tax will require a two-thirds majority supporting it in the special election that ends May 3. Mail-in ballots for the election were recently sent to the 45,000 registered voters in the school district.

If approved, the measure — Measure V — would create an \$85-per-year parcel tax for five years for each residential property, while commercial and industrial property owners would have to pay between \$200 and \$2,500 per year, depending on the property's size.

Jack Hickey, chairman of the San Mateo County LP, took the lead in writing ballot arguments against the tax, saying — according to newspaper coverage of the issue — that the district's residents can't afford a new tax.

Proponents of the tax argue that \$85 per residence is actually a low tax, and that it will allow the school district to avoid firing teachers and staff members.

But this is only the latest in a lengthy string of taxes that have been proposed in the region.

The Web site for the San Mateo County LP points out that the party "is best known as the only organized opposition to higher taxes" in the county, and that in the past decade they've "used ballot arguments, newspaper interviews and public appearances to block almost half a billion dollars in new taxes — or \$2,000 per household."

So the local Libertarian Party is not only active in opposing taxes, but also is effective in so doing.

"When was the last time the Republicans or Democrats stood up for the little guy?" the county party's Web site asks rhetorically.

And that's just what Hickey and the other Libertarians in San Mateo County are doing.

"The people who own commercial property, this measure hits them pretty hard," Hickey told a local newspaper. "Many of these people

are retired and they have an income from a small piece of commercial property, and some are going to get hit as much as \$1,500 a year."

■ IDAHO

Former LP candidate threatens lawmaker

A 2004 LP candidate for Idaho's District 1 House seat made the news in early April by allegedly calling for the public lynching of the Republican who beat him in the November election, as well as two other state legislators.

According to Associated Press reports, Frank Reichert "spread a letter via the Internet calling for three northern Idaho lawmakers ... to be 'hauled out onto the street and hung in public display for their treason.'"

Reichert apparently targeted Republican state representatives Eric Anderson (Reichert's erstwhile opponent) and George Eskridge, as well as state Sen. Shawn Keough, because of their support for a bill that requires building contractors to be registered with state authorities and to have at least \$300,000 in liability insurance.

A contractor himself, Reichert argued that the new law — which was subsequently signed by Gov. Dirk Kempthorne — will force small contractors out of business.

Under Idaho law, threatening a state politician is a felony offense. But the legislators did not report the threat to police and apparently didn't take it seriously. According to the AP, Reichert said his e-mail was posted on private, Libertarian newsgroups and wasn't a threat.

■ MASSACHUSETTS

Howell wins MA LP achievement award

Carla Howell packed a lifetime of activism into only eight years to win the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Massachusetts LP at the state convention April 16.

A successful businesswoman with an MBA from Babson College, Howell brings her business experience to bear in her LP efforts.

Howell joined the LP in 1996, hitting the ground running. That same year, she co-organized a highly successful LP presidential fundraiser in Boston. And just a year later, she was elected state chair.

In 1998, her 6 percent vote total for Massachusetts auditor gained the LP standing ballot status.

In 2000, she ran against Ted Kennedy for U.S. Senate. Ms. Howell's Libertarian campaign raised over \$821,000 from over 5,106 in-

dividual donors, and mobilized 726 campaign volunteers. She garnered 308,860 votes — and almost beat the Republican for second place.

Howell spearheaded the 2002 ballot initiative to end the Massachusetts income tax, and initiative which won an unprecedented 45 percent of the vote. Running also as candidate for governor, she made the case for ending the income tax in seven televised debates.

And in April, Howell launched her most recent project: the Center for Small Government.

■ NEBRASKA

Influential radio host addresses convention

Tom Becka, whose radio talk show has been one of the nation's top 100 shows for the last nine years running, was one of the featured speakers at the Nebraska LP's state convention.

The convention was held March 12 at Mahoney State Park, located between Omaha and Lincoln.

In addition to speaking at the LP's convention, Becka had 2004 LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik on his program during the 2004 election cycle; his Web site includes links to LP.org, the Cato Institute's Web site and the Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom site; and he has recently given the Libertarian Party substantial coverage on his show, according to Paul Tripp, an LP member from Omaha who listens to the show regularly.

■ TEXAS

LP leader runs for Austin City Council

Wes Benedict, executive director of the Texas LP, is running for city council in Austin. He recently received a letter from Bill Holloway, co-chairman of the Travis County Green Party, noting that Benedict has that party's endorsement for the council seat.

"I am very honored to accept the endorsement of the Travis County Green Party," Benedict responded. "Among our many agreements on issues, I particularly hope we can put an end to some of the worst corporate welfare abuses coming out of our city council."

Benedict is running against an incumbent for the seat, one of two up for grabs in the May 7 election.

"Wes Benedict is one of those people who gets the job done, and I think he has a very good chance at becoming one of the highest-ranking elected Libertarians in the country," said Libertarian National Committee member Rick McGinnis,

who is also an Austin resident.

Libertarian Steve Adams planned to run for the other available city council seat. He had collected his petition signatures and was driving to the courthouse to drop them off when he got caught in traffic.

"I made it into the building at 5:01 p.m., and they wouldn't accept my petitions," Adams said. "The deadline was 5 p.m. Now I will be forced to be a write-in candidate, a tremendous disadvantage."

■ VIRGINIA

Washington Times prints LP candidate op-ed

Scott McPherson, a Libertarian candidate for the Virginia House of Delegates, District 37, had an op-ed printed in the *Washington Times* on March 31 — giving him a rare opportunity to sound off on education reform.

Noting that parents in his area have a "growing list of concerns ... over the quality of education their kids are receiving in public schools," McPherson said educational freedom is going to be the primary focus of his campaign.

A homeschooling parent, McPherson said many people won't agree with his opinions on public schools.

"They feel that public schools are a necessary and vital tool for providing education to the young," he said. "I would disagree with such people. However, I also respect the fact that, right or wrong, they genuinely want all children to have a shot at a good education."

"What I am asking is that those of us who choose differently from the majority have our views granted equal consideration before the law. Those who believe in public education should pay for it; those of us who don't should be granted as much respect."

If he is elected, McPherson promised, he will try to get legislation approved to give tax refunds to parents who choose not to send their children to government schools.

"Taxpayers would be refunded only their own money that is currently being used to provide a seat for their child in the local public school," he said. "The idea of educational property tax relief may al-

ready be catching on.

"According to the Jan. 24 *Northern Virginia Journal*, a bill sponsored by Delegate Bob Marshall, Manassas Republican, would give the Prince William County Board of Supervisors 'authority to grant a property tax credit to parents living in the attendance zone of a public school that the school board has declared to be overcrowded if they agreed to send their child to a private school instead.'"

McPherson's question is, why not give every parent in the state the same choice?

■ WISCONSIN

LP condemns alleged murder prosecution

The Wisconsin LP is condemning the prosecution of Adam Raisbeck, who in 2001 — at the age of 17 — was involved in a car accident while serving as a designated driver.

A passenger in the car was killed and Raisbeck was charged with murder despite the fact that no drugs or alcohol were present and no one witnessed any speeding.

"This prosecution is a waste of taxpayer money and is destroying a good young man," said Rolf Lindgren, press secretary for the Wisconsin LP.

Among the facts of the case: Prosecutor Paul Humphrey was cited by the judge for signing a false affidavit and has been removed from the case — but is still allowed to handle evidence in other cases.

"No prosecutor who signs a false affidavit should be handing evidence in any case," Lindgren said.

The court has also reportedly acknowledged that the Dane County District Attorney's office falsely represented expert opinion, and even a judge involved in the case has been caught falsifying the records attached to the case.

"These facts and many more have been ruled not important by the court," Lindgren said.

Makes you wonder what kind of facts would be considered important.

Online Resources for LP Members

■ Find contact info for your state Libertarian Party or your State Chair

Visit: 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

Click on: Organization

Click on: National Committee

Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership

Visit: www.LP.org

See: Special Features (left side)

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Is Abortion Aggression?

See why it is: www.L4L.org

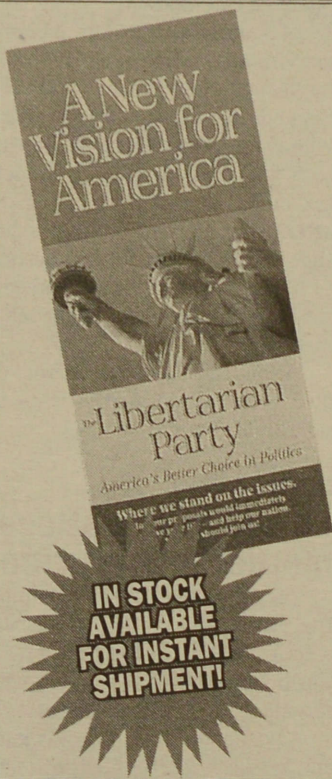
Libertarians for Life
13424 Hathaway Dr.
Wheaton, MD 20906
(301) 460-4141
libertarian@erols.com

I WANT YOUR STORY!

On April 15, Tax Day, Libertarians around the nation frequently protest outside U.S. Post Offices, courthouses and other facilities where disgruntled taxpayers are ready to hear a libertarian message.

If you or your local affiliate held such a tax protest this year, I want to hear about it. Photos are also needed. Thank you.

—LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud



★★★★ They're back! ★★★★★

Our popular "New Vision for America" brochures are back in stock and ready for immediate delivery.

To celebrate, we're offering a **20% DISCOUNT** and **FREE SHIPPING** if you buy them by the box. Normally, these brochures sell for 25 cents each, but you can get them for under **19 CENTS** each if you purchase them by the box in quantities of 650 or more. **That's just \$120 per box — plus we'll pay the shipping!**

"A New Vision for America" is a 24-page, full-color outreach brochure ... a prospecting tool that presents our vision for America in a positive, upbeat manner. And it's loaded with gorgeous photographs of Libertarians in action. "A New Vision for America" takes a warm, human approach — telling true stories that illustrate Libertarian principles. Instead of focusing on how bad the Republicans and Democrats are, we gently ask readers to imagine a better America — an America of prosperity, tolerance, and freedom.

This pocket-sized (8.5" by 4") booklet fits easily in a pocket or purse, and is perfect for handing out at state fairs, politically homeless booths and other outreach events. Order your "New Vision for America" brochures today! Smaller orders are priced at **\$25 per 100**. (LP pays shipping.)

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 2003: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2003) 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

■ **Bumper Stickers**
\$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:** 3.5" 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

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 Politically 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.

■ Ready-to-use Literature

| Q'NTY | COST |
|-------|---|
| _____ | BOOKLET (4-c): "A New Vision for America" |
| _____ | Brochure (4-c): "Is This/New Political Party...?" |
| _____ | Brochure (4-c): "More 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" |
| _____ | Flyer: "Political Party/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

| | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
| _____ | Why Government Doesn't Work |
| _____ | By Harry Browne |
| _____ | Libertarianism In One Lesson |
| _____ | By David Bergland |

■ Buttons

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

■ Total Due

| | |
|-------|--|
| _____ | Merchandise Total |
| _____ | RUSH handling: Add \$5 for same-day handling |
| _____ | RUSH shipping: Call office to arrange |
| _____ | Send to a Post Office Box: \$5 extra |
| _____ | TOTAL PAYMENT DUE |

[] Cash, check, or money order enclosed. (No corporate checks!)
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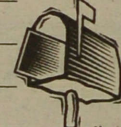
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THE FORUM

Libertarians, vegetarians, chimpanzees and John McCain

I can deal with being listed third. But, darn it, stop lumping us libertarians in with the vegetarians.

I'm talking about the phrase, "Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or vegetarian."

Against all odds, it's become a political cliché. If you haven't heard it yet, you will. When you do, resist the urge to smile. It initially sounds comical, but there's a smack upside the head hiding behind the humor.

The phrase is structured like a joke. First, you've got Republicans and Democrats, who run the country. Then you've got Libertarians, who, well, *don't* run the country. And then, as the punchline, you've got vegetarians, who — heh! heh! — aren't even a political party. Which puts Libertarians exactly halfway between Real Politics and people who eat soyburgers. (Not that there's anything wrong with soyburgers.)

Who coined this flippant phrase? As near as I can tell, it was U.S. Senator John McCain, who first uttered it during his 2000 presidential campaign. At a speech in Greenwood, S.C., McCain urged the crowd to vote — "whether you're

Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or vegetarian." Alas, vegetarians stayed home to cook soyburgers, and McCain lost the state Republican primary to George W. Bush.

But the phrase apparently lodged in that small part of McCain's brain that isn't perpetually scheming how to become president, or concocting reasons why Congress should get involved in baseball's steroid controversy. Soon he started sprinkling it everywhere, like verbal salt.

In 2001, he used it to praise "Face the Nation" host Bob Schieffer, who McCain described as so "scrupulously fair ... I could not tell you if he was Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or vegetarian."

In 2002, McCain trotted it out at a Los Angeles luncheon to hector the audience into getting involved in politics. "It matters not to me," intoned he, "whether you're Republican or Democrat or Libertarian or vegetarian."

In 2004, McCain whipped it out again to deny interest in the GOP's vice presidential nomination. On "The Today Show," McCain said, "I have said many times in the past, I don't choose to be vice president, either Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or vegetarian."

(I can't speak for Democrats or vegetarians, but I'm pretty sure

the Libertarians weren't planning to offer the nomination to you, Mr. McCain. But thanks for rejecting it.)

After that, McCain gave it a rest. But it was too late. The phrase had taken on a life of its own. Over the last few months, it's been surfacing as frequently as bad legislation in Congress. Some examples:

■ In California, Sierra College President Kevin Ramirez used it to deny that he had taken an inappropriate donation. "I will accept support from anybody — Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or vegetarian," he said.

Ramirez also said he didn't have sexual relations with *that* woman. Oh, wait, wrong denial.

■ In Washington, U.S. Rep. J.D. Hayworth, Jr., used it in a speech before Congress to urge Americans — "whether Republican or Democrat or Independent or Libertarian or vegetarian" — to support the fight against "Islamofascism." Nice inclusive touch, adding Independents to his anti-Jihad Jihad.

■ On the BuzzMachine Blog, Jeff Jarvis used it to argue that blogs had no innate political bias. He wrote: "There's nothing about this new medium that makes it essentially conservative or liberal or libertarian or vegetarian..." (Curiously, he

excluded the omnipresent "I-have-no-life-therefore-I-blog" bias.)

Yes, the phrase has achieved cliché status. But that's not the worst part. It has also *mutated*. Apparently deciding that the "...or vegetarian" part isn't funny enough, various writers have upped the rhetorical ante, trying to outdo each other with "clever" endings to the phrase. Some examples:

■ On the CHUD.com message boards, a gentleman named "Martianman" opined that Rep. Cynthia McKinney is insane.

"I don't care if she's Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or Pedestrian," he wrote. "She is nuts." (As an aside, Pedestrians *should* start their own political party. They may not always talk the talk — but, by God, they do walk the walk.)

■ In a debate about the federal debt on FreeRepublic.com, a Mr. Sinkspur wrote: "We should give up on the idea of anybody — Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Ginsu Knife Tribe — ever cutting spending." (A bold claim, that, since Ginsu knives can even cut steel pipes.)

■ On a discussion forum for Jimmy Buffett fans, Bob D. stepped away

from the booze in the blender long enough to write that President Bush would be "stupid, dangerous, and reckless whether he were Democrat, Republican, Libertarian or Plutocrat." (Stop imaging a green George W. Bush with eight arms; a Plutocrat isn't someone from Pluto. It's a person who "exercises power by virtue of wealth.")

But the nadir of phrase-mutation was achieved by David L. Cantrell, Jr. on his eponymous David's Blog. In early November 2004, he urged everyone to get out and vote — whether you're a "Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or Chimpanzee!"

Great. Now Libertarians are one step up from monkeys.

But don't despair. The good news it that we can't get much lower. That is, until someone coins the phrase "...Republican, Democrat, Libertarian or John McCain." At that point, I'll take the chimpanzee.

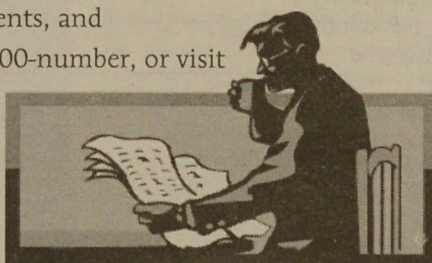
■ **About the author:** Bill Winter was the editor of LP News from 1997 until early 2004. He is now the communications director for the Advocates for Self-Government.

By Bill Winter

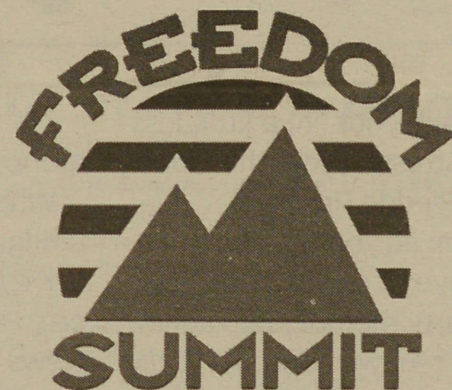
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New advisory council to contribute for legislative action

Responding to a call for increased legislative and political activity, Libertarian Party Executive Director Joe Seehusen recently kicked off a new effort: the Executive Director's Legislative Action Advisory Council (EDLAAC).

"This is very much a work in progress," Seehusen said. "A number of major donors approached me and said, 'We want to see more actual political activity, and we're willing to pay for it.'"

So he made a few phone calls and quickly discovered that those he had talked to were both willing and excited to join the group.

"This is about political activity, addressing specific legislation," Seehusen said. "The reason is, if you're not influencing specific legislation, you're not influencing much of anything. That's the vehicle that changes America."

"EDLAAC is comprised of major donors willing to contribute at least

\$5,000 per year to help the LP work on political outreach and on developing the capacity to influence specific legislation — and working to repeal current legislation."

The group's mission will be to support or create legislation "where we can have a real impact on a national level," Seehusen said. "This could include legislation that reduces or eliminates taxes; reduces or eliminates failed federal programs; or protects civil liberties, privacy is-

sues and campaign finance laws."

The recent activities undertaken by LP headquarters staff have been directed to that end, he added.

They include:

■ Co-sponsoring CPAC, the Conservative Political Action Conference, where the LP was given "a warm reception from our limited government allies."

■ Joining a coalition that is working to permanently repeal the death tax. (See story on Page 1)

■ Joining with nine other groups to form Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances. Former Rep. Bob Barr of Georgia is chairman of the group, about which there was recently a front page story in *The Washington Times*. *The Wall Street Journal* also talked about the group's efforts.

■ Seehusen was invited to become a member of the National Press Club, which he joined with nationally syndicated columnist Steve Chapman as his sponsor.

"We now have a high-profile venue to hold national press conferences, and a place to pitch stories to influential members of the media, one-on-one," he said, noting that the Indiana LP has had great success in getting its message out to the state's media since that state's executive director, Brad Klopfenstein, joined the Indianapolis Press Club.

And there's more to come. The LP is already booked to sponsor additional events at Freedom Fest in Las Vegas in May, and at an upcoming National Taxpayers Union event in Washington D.C.

"We are getting involved in political outreach, creating alliances with other political organizations," Seehusen said, pointing to the ACLU's participation in Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances as an indication of that effort.

"We fully intend to continue looking for opportunities to reach out to both the right and the left."

"There are only two kinds of operators inside the Washington beltway: People who have opinions and people who get things done. As a senior political reporter for a major Washington daily recently told me, 'Only organizations that can apply real political pressure on specific legislation will have any impact on the direction America takes. Everything else is just talk.'"

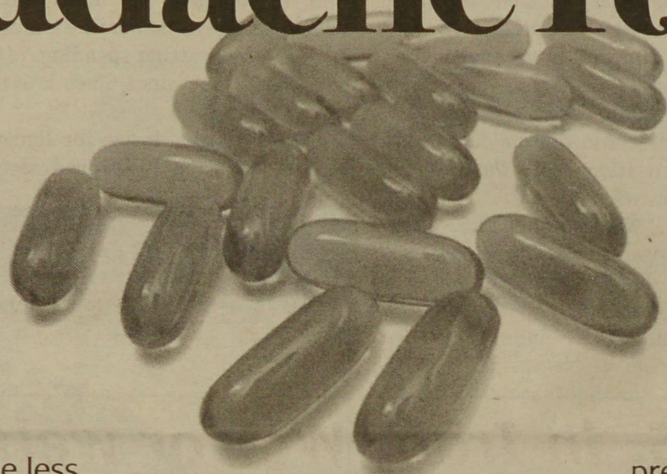
Or as Vince Hanke, an EDLAAC member, said, "I believe it's time to turn up the intensity and focus our attention on getting real clout in the national legislative arena."

"That's what we're working for," Seehusen concluded. "We need to get active, to talk to people who are making change in politics, and to become some of those people who are working on change."

"Through EDLAAC, we can become much more intimately involved in the process."

For more information about EDLAAC, call LP Development Coordinator Jessica Neno Wilson at (202) 333-0008, ext. 235.

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Want to make government smaller? Make Congress read laws before voting on them

By Jim Babka

PRESIDENT, DOWNSIZE DC FOUNDATION

One simple change could dramatically slow the growth of government: Make Congress read the laws it creates before it votes on them.

As Congressman Brian Baird (D-Wash.) recently wrote in the *Washington Post*:

"There is now an inverse relationship between the importance of legislation and the amount of time members have to study it before voting... prominent examples from the 108th Congress include the Medicare prescription drug bill, the energy bill, the intelligence bill and the defense authorization bill.

"These important pieces of legislation total more than 2,900 pages of text and authorize more than \$1 trillion of spending. Yet, collectively, they were available to members for less than 48 hours total for reading."

Baird's column was inspired by the "Istook Amendment," a proposal buried in a 3,200-page, \$388 billion omnibus appropriations bill passed in November.

According to Julian Sanchez of *Reason*, this amendment "would have empowered appropriations committee chairmen or their 'agents' to examine Americans' tax returns."

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) says he doesn't know how this provision got in the bill, but he thought Representative Ernest Istook (R-Okla.) might know. But

Istook said, "I didn't write it; I didn't approve it; I wasn't even consulted..."

If your attorney represented you this way even once it would be malpractice. But this is how Congress "represents" you every day. Simply put, most members of the House of Representatives and the Senate barely read any portion of bills they pass, much less every word of every bill. But that minimum should be required.

That's why DownsizeDC.org, Inc. has created the "Read the Bills Act of 2005 (RTBA)" to fix this problem.

Read the Bills Act requirements

Each bill, and every amendment thereto, along with every part of any current law to be amended by the new bill, must be read in its entirety before a quorum in both the House and the Senate.

Every member of the House and Senate must sign a sworn affidavit, under penalty of perjury, that they have attentively either personally read, or heard read, the complete bill to be voted on, including amendments, as well as every part of any current law to be amended by the new bill.

Every old law coming up for renewal under the sunset provisions must also be read according to the same rules that apply to new bills.

Every bill to be voted on, including all of its amendments, must be published on the Internet at least seven days before a vote, and pub-

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

lic notification of the date when a vote will be held on that bill must also be given, at least seven days in advance.

Failure to abide by these provisions will render any bill so passed null-and-void, and establish grounds for the validity of the law to be challenged in court.

Congress cannot, by concurrent resolution, unanimous consent, or by any other order, resolution, vote, or other means, dispense with or otherwise waive these requirements.

You can "read the bill" at www.DownsizeDC.org

Legislation without representation

There's a basic principle at stake here. America was founded on the slogan "No taxation without representation." A similar slogan applies in this situation: "No LEGISLATION without representation."

As the DownsizeDC.org Web site

puts it: "We hold this truth to be self-evident, that those in Congress who vote on legislation they have not read, have not represented their constituents.

"They have misrepresented them."

Downsizing DC

That's the populist case for RTBA, but there are also libertarian, government downsizing elements to the proposal.

Congress will have to slow down. This means the pace of government growth will also slow.

Bills will tend to shrink, be less complicated, and contain fewer subjects, so that Congress will be able to endure hearing them read.

Fewer bad proposals will be passed by combing them with popular measures.

No more secret provisions will be inserted into bills at the last moment.

More bills will receive public scrutiny and debate.

Government may actually shrink as old laws reach their sunset date, and have to be read for the first time.



Jim Babka

And each and every one of these outcomes will enable groups like the Libertarian Party and Downsize DC to more effectively oppose bad legislation. The result may be a smaller government.

About the author: Jim Babka is the President of DownsizeDC.org, Inc. and the Downsize DC Foundation. He's also the host of "The Culture Repair Show" heard on the Genesis Communications Network.

U.S. in Iraq: War or welfare project?

By Mark Selzer

VICE CHAIRMAN, CALIFORNIA LP

Is this a war or a welfare project?

The roads in much of America are in disrepair. Yet the people of Iraq are getting their roads fixed, using American taxpayer money.

Americans do not have a universal healthcare system, nor should they, yet steps are being taken to give this to the people of Iraq on the backs of American taxpayers.

Republicans planned to build a \$500 million dollar welfare hospital in Iraq but were stopped by Democrats who said it would be too expensive. How big does a welfare project have to be when the traditionally free-spending Democrats say it is too expensive?

Evidently the Republicans are now worse than the Democrats. Much of the spending in Iraq is going for social programs and rebuilding "infrastructure".

The Democrats often act as a "Mommy State" and the Republicans often act as a "Daddy State." They believe it is their responsibility to take care of everyone, but they also believe they are in charge of discipline — not only in this country but also worldwide.

Domestically, this thinking has led the Republicans to grow spending for social programs much worse than the Democrats.

Internationally, this has led to huge increases in foreign aid and foreign intervention.

They see foreign aid programs as failing — just as welfare programs in the United States have failed to end poverty — so they have redone foreign aid by giving it a Republican Daddy State twist. First they change the government in a country and punish all the "bad" people, then give billions in aid — whereas the Mommy State Democrats tended to just give money away to less fortunate countries.

Democrats and Republicans always use the argument that people are "entitled" to things. The elderly are "entitled" to health care, people are "entitled" to drug free streets, etc.

Therefore the government must intervene, using force to take money away from people for social programs that have good intentions, but do not work well — or make the problems worse.

Now the U.S. government tells us the people of Iraq are "entitled" to democracy or a "good" government. This means they will be taking money away from us to pay for it. Not only that, but about 1,500 Americans have already paid with their lives.

When you make the decision to go into a foreign country and change its government, who becomes responsible for the feeding, housing, healthcare, security and general welfare of the people in that country? The American taxpayer, according to this administration.

This philosophy is a recipe for world-wide welfare.

Big-government Republicans and Democrats often tell us that a great crisis is at hand. That some great catastrophe is looming and they must use force to prevent it.

They claim that without their intervention old people will starve in the streets, giving bureaucrats and politicians the right to impose a retirement plan on everyone that all are mandated to pay into.

Or they claim that drug addiction will destroy America unless they "intervene" and use force to arrest drug dealers and users.

Now they are telling us that unless we attack Iraq, America will be overrun by terrorists.

We as Libertarians believe that problems are solved by peaceful cooperation — not by force and intervention.

The American and Iraqi people are caught in the middle of this belief system about violence, the belief that government violence and force will solve all our problems.

What justification exists for us to be in Iraq? None that a Libertarian can see.

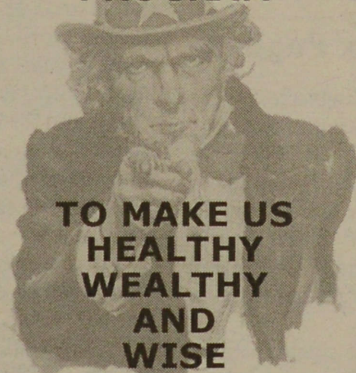
But Democrats, Republicans and other socialists see this as an excuse to take American-style big government programs to foreign countries.

About the author: Mark Selzer is the Southern Vice Chair of the California LP. He also hosts a weekly television show, *The Libertarian Alternative*. Go to www.LibertarianAlternative.org for more information.

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THE EDITOR

Want to be respected? Then show respect.

"Hey, Libertarian Party.

"I got your phone number off the bumper sticker on a car that just cut me off. It said, 'Vote Libertarian.' Well, I'll never vote for you, you bunch of f----- losers.

"Oh, and learn to drive."

Laughing quasi-maniacally, the unidentified voice hung up the phone. And listening to his message, left on voicemail at LP headquarters over the weekend, I knew the party had made one more enemy, no matter how short-lived that enmity may prove.

I can't blame the man. Some Libertarian, somewhere in America, had offended him in traffic. And for that, all Libertarians around the nation would pay.

"No big deal," you say. "We're better off without people who get offended that easily, people who judge an entire group by the actions of one individual."

But honestly, I'm guilty of the same thing. I've noted the "What would Jesus do" stickers on the cars of people who try to kill me on my motorcycle.

When I worked for a small-town newspaper in middle Tennessee, I noted the Darwin fish-lizard on the trunk of a car that was resting on its roof, its tires still turning slowly, its driver dead of natural selection via DUI.

"I guess by now you know whether or not there's a God," I thought at the time.

But looking back at these incidents with the filter of time clarifying my vision, I realize that being an atheist (or simply a believer in evolution) doesn't mean you should immediately be escorted

into an offended God's presence. And I've come to realize that being a Christian doesn't necessarily lump you in with the idiots who routinely try to run me and my bike into guardrails and ditches.

Back to bumper stickers: Suffice it to say, as our less-than-genial recent caller communicated so effectively, that people notice the affiliations of people with whose actions they take offense. When you're in a vehicle that advertises your personal beliefs — whether political, religious or otherwise social or antisocial — it should come as no surprise when others assume that your actions are representative of the group or worldview you espouse.

This tendency runs both ways, of course. I've blown past cars on my bike, which is liberally be-stickered with the product of Georgia-based Think Libertarian, only to have the cars in question pull up next to me a minute later, point at my "It's your money. It's your life. Vote Libertarian." sticker and give me a thumbs up.

But what about the others, those who object to my extra-legal speeds and gesture with a different digit? Am I being a negative advertisement for the party of which I'm so proud?

With that in mind, I'm trying to stay within spitting distance of the posted speed limit — or here in the Northern Virginia-DC area, not too much faster than the flow of traffic, which is consistently either 15 miles per hour over the speed limit or at a dead standstill.

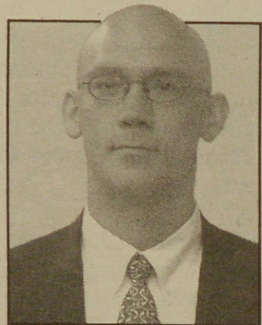
Out in the country, or in other situations where for whatever reason there isn't anybody else on the road, I'll continue flying low when the occasion calls for it. But I'll endeavor to keep from giving anyone a reason to continue believing that Libertarians are egomaniacal, inconsiderate and insensitive — both in my piloting style and in my personal interactions with our public.

If you're going to wear a Libertarian slogan T-shirt, sport bumper stickers or simply make it known that you're "one of those Libertines," I'd respectfully suggest that you do the same. Show some consideration for others. Be a good advertisement for the party.

My mother would say that this has nothing to do with political expediency and everything to do with proper upbringing — that treating people well and respectfully is to be expected of any decent human being.

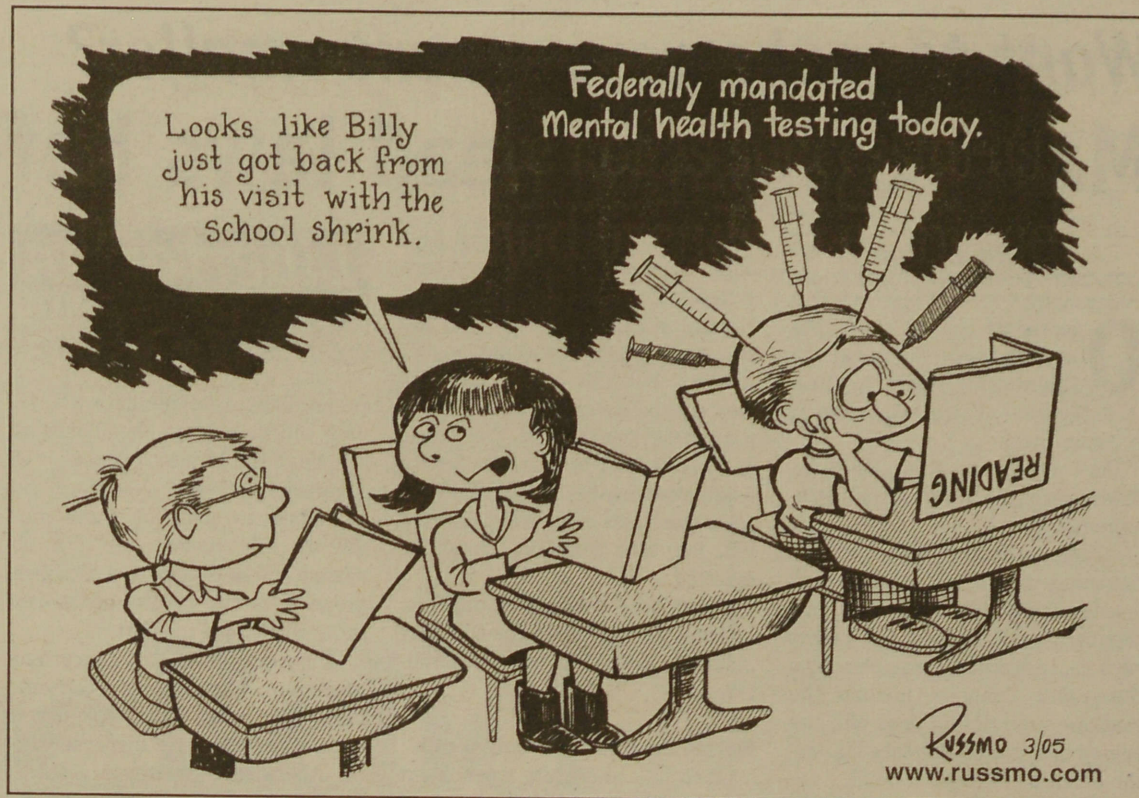
And you know, she might just be right. More right — and more on target — than she knows.

In our actions, in our debates, in our lives *en toto*, we should strive to show others that Libertarians are, in fact, decent human beings after all.



By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR



Russmo 3/05
www.russmo.com

THE MAILBOX

■ Dues increase

I hear that the LP is raising 2006 membership [renewals] to \$50. That would be the dumbest thing the LP ever did. You will lose a significant amount of members, mine included. Of course I will still be voter registered as a Libertarian.

The LP should be leading by example when it says it wants to reduce the influence of government, by reducing their budget.

If I didn't know any better, I would say this idea came from that Capitol Moron, Bush in the White House.

—SIVA KRISHNA
Naples, Florida

■ Instant runoff voting

We would like to respond to J. Mills' letter, "Instant Runoff Voting" (LP News, February 2005).

Mills, a former supporter of instant runoff voting, now says that IRV is a bad thing because it "gathers to the Ds and Rs all the erstwhile Libertarian and Green votes."

Yes, it does that in certain circumstances, but it also gathers potential Democrat and Republican votes to LP candidates in certain circumstances.

IRV is a voting system in which the voter simply ranks his choices in the general election; there is no primary. For instance, a voter might rank Bush first and Badnarik second, or Kerry first and Badnarik second.

If there is no majority winner on the count of the "first" choices, then the count moves to the "second" choices to find the majority winner on the second tier. IRV continues to do this until a majority winner is chosen on one of the tiers.

IRV eliminates the "wasted vote syndrome" (I-won't-waste-my-vote-on-a-loser syndrome) because the voter gets to vote all of his choices in order of preference. IRV provides excellent name exposure for LP candidates and may allow the LP to actually win elections.

Mills favors keeping the present plurality-winner-take-all single tier system, because he thinks this gives us the "balance of power" — in other

**IF A NATION
should ever enter
into a war, it must
do so only when it is
attacked, or when its
vital interests
are at stake.**

— Alex Pugliese

words, makes us "Kingmakers."

But we are not Kingmakers.

The Rs and Ds do not play to the Libertarian vote. Their strategy is to ignore us. Their parties are far too entrenched and powerful to be concerned with the 1 percent or 2 percent of the vote garnered by Libertarians.

There is not one single instance where the Rs and Ds in power have ever "offered" the LP anything to stay out of a race or endorse their candidates. Further, we have never caused the R and D politicians to abolish the drug war, free innocent people, end an illegal war or lower taxes. We would have to win office to do that.

Libertarians in Washington state

and nationwide endorse IRV. It is the wave of the future for third parties and deserves out strong support.

—TOM STAHL
Ellensburg, Washington
AND PATRICIA MICHL
Sumner, Washington

■ Non-intervention

There have been a great many misconceptions among those in the press, in politics and elsewhere concerning a non-interventionist foreign policy. These individuals claim that non-interventionism is nothing more than a fancy word for isolationism.

It is nothing of the sort. Isolationists seek alliances with no other nations whereas non-interventionist seek temporary alliances in case of emergencies such as war.

Non-interventionism is the policy of not getting involved in the quarrels of other nations — of seeking peace, free trade and open markets with all, but not getting involved in their disputes.

It is also the belief that if a nation should ever enter into a war, it must do so only when it is attacked, or when its vital and national interests are at stake.

Non-interventionism was the foreign policy of the United States for 109 years. All this changed in 1895 when then-President William McKinley annexed the Philippines, got involved in the Spanish-American war in Cuba and got the United States involved also in Hawaii (then not a state). Since then, the United States has followed an interventionist foreign policy line.

Throughout the 20th century,
See THE MAILBOX Page 17

THE MAILBOX

the United States involved itself in conflicts that many non-interventionists believe have not been in America's interest. The examples they cite are World War I, the Korean War, The Vietnam War, the First Gulf War, and conflicts in Liberia, Lebanon, Haiti, Bosnia, Panama and Grenada.

They have also claimed that because of these conflicts, the United States has overextended its armed forces all over the globe. They point to the fact, for example, that there are 40,000 U.S. troops in 137 other countries where there is no threat to U.S. interests.

They also claim that since the United States has signed multilateral and bilateral agreements, it has put itself on a permanent war footing for the purposes of defending 50 or more nations. These agreements range from NATO, the Rio Pact, the Japanese Defense Treaty and others.

Non-interventionists seek wisdom from the words of the founding fathers.

For example, George Washington once stated, "The great rule of conduct for us in regard to foreign nations is extending our commercial relations and to have with them as little political connection as possible."

Thomas Jefferson believed in "peace, commerce and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none."

And John Quincy Adams stated the United States "goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy."

I hope the United States will take a second look at the words of our nation's founding fathers and the words of the founding documents, and take them into consideration.

—ALEX PUGLIESE

Kenilworth, New Jersey

John Galt

If this is supposed to be the party that espouses values such as those put forward in Ayn Rand's work, then why does the party

keep putting forward inferior candidates?

Don't worry; it won't be long now. The real John Galt is on his way.

—VINNY CASHARELLI

via e-mail

Terri Schaivo

Many articles have spilled ink on the ethics concerning who owns Terri, and the rights of her husband and parents. I see the court case as an oblique attack on the right to die.

Most have ignored the fact that the "disconnect" decision is a reflection of a new reality. The tubes connected Terri to her life support, and the wires to the media (our life support) connect us all to what was an intensely private dilemma — which now somehow demands a popular judgment.

[And it is] a difficult decision to make. Even evangelicals are divided. It is not just a practical or ethical decision. It is a decision that evolves through culture.

It is good that the issues surrounding suicide and the disconnection of life support are being discussed widely and that there are differences of opinion. The right to die and to be assisted in this process can not be affirmed without some guarantee that people are letting go and not being pushed.

The guarantors of these rights should not be the state and rarely the courts. It is the individual who should make these decisions, through a living will. Or, if there isn't a living will, families, friends or spiritual mentors should make these decisions.

When you choose someone to make choices for you when you can no longer choose for yourself, it should be someone who reflects your values. Choose someone who knows and cares about you.

—DON MEINSHAUSEN

Hoboken, New Jersey

Mass transit

Robert G. Dostal (February 2005 *LP News*, The MailBox) says Libertarians shouldn't take the position that cars are the most efficient way to commute, but he'd change his mind if he had to commute on a mass transit system.

In the Washington D.C. area, which has what is often claimed to be the most efficient mass transit system in the world, spending hours each day commuting is considered perfectly normal.

Frequent delays make arrival times less predictable for mass transit users, requiring people to leave earlier to allow a larger margin than would someone who drives to work. The Metro system operates below capacity when it snows, causing severe delays and making train cars even more crowded.

And on top of that, the Metro stations in some outlying areas have no parking garages, making

it necessary for many people (who would choose to drive to the Metro station) to take a long drive away from the office simply to catch a train and go to work, which itself increases congestion. To the extent reducing car emissions is a purpose of mass transit systems, driving away from work just to get to work largely defeats the whole purpose.

You might think that taking the Metro would free up one's hands, making it possible to eat breakfast while going to work and to eat dinner on the way home, but the fine for eating on Metro is the same as for littering or smoking — \$500. A woman was recently fined for putting a piece of candy in her mouth before stepping onto Metro property, even though she didn't chew the candy after entering.

Supposedly this is necessary to prevent littering. It would be much more effective to increase the fine for littering and put trash cans on the platforms so people don't have to pay to get off just to throw away their trash, but indifferent government bureaucracies don't need to be that concerned with serving their customers.

Despite having a daily train ridership of nearly 120,000 (winter) and over 140,000 (summer), not including the tens of thousands who use the even slower MetroBus system, and despite Metro's near monopoly on transportation over several square miles of urban land, the Metro system operates at a loss. It recently made a \$1 billion budget request, threatening that if it is not granted many four-car and six-car trains will have to be replaced by 2 car trains.

Dostal is right that we can't hope to privatize transportation. However, the issue does provide Libertarians an opportunity to address problems that Democrats and Republicans in power have worsened.

—JOSH DUNN

Burke, Virginia

Infiltration

I see in the January 2005 *LP News* that Rep. Ron Paul of Texas is referred to as a libertarian, but is a Republican Party member.

I see nothing wrong with that, as long as he doesn't keep his libertarian beliefs a secret.

Let's face it, Republican and Democratic candidates do have a better chance of getting elected than do third party candidates. As a Republican, Rep. Paul can resist the totalitarian idea of a national I.D. card and maybe succeed in defeating it.

While almost listening to the 2004 election results on the radio, but not paying close attention, I think I heard the commentator mention "Libertarian Republicans."

So there must be others in addition to Ron Paul, and I hope the Democrats have some, also.

By such "infiltration," we could possibly get both major parties to become more libertarian in their beliefs and platforms.

—SAMUEL A. SHAFEE

Winter Haven, Florida

LOOKING BACK

EDITOR'S NOTE: *LP News has been published continuously since 1972. Each issue, we showcase a few top stories from 10, 20 and 30 years ago.*

May-June 1975

HEADLINE: NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANS SET

NEW YORK CITY — "The 1975 National Convention of the Libertarian Party appears well on its way to becoming the largest libertarian gathering in the modern history of the movement. Officials here estimate that the convention, which runs from Aug. 28 - Sept. 1, will involve 600 delegates and alternates in addition to attracting 400-600 registered spectators."

The site for the convention (billed as the Presidential Convention) was the Statler Hilton Hotel in mid-Manhattan.

HEADLINE: THINGS MAY BE GETTING BETTER

"It is fashionable, in Libertarian circles, to be a doom-sayer. Almost any time Libertarians get together, they begin regaling each other with predictions that within six months, or a year, or two years, there is going to be a terrible economic collapse, a violent revolution or a Hitlerian dictatorship in the United States," wrote Libertarian Party founder David Nolan.

"I'm not quite sure why this is the case, but the phenomenon is indisputably there. And I will confess that I have helped fuel the fires myself, on occasion," he continued.

"I think that perhaps our tendencies towards playing Cassandra were acquired from our erstwhile comrades-in-arms, the Conservatives. Conservatives are always promulgating gloom and despair, and considering the fact that political history in the last four decades has recorded little but defeats and retreats for their cause, they are probably justified in their pessimism.

"Today, the Republican Party is a shambles and it seems that everyone is talking about a possible major third party. And increasingly, a lot of that talk is about us."

May 1985

HEADLINE: PHOENIX, AZ SITE OF 10TH LP NATIONAL CONVENTION

The 10th national convention of the Libertarian Party was set for Aug. 14-18 in Phoenix, and a convention theme of "Freedom Reborn" was selected.

"In Egyptian mythology the phoenix bird, and in Greek mythology the story of Phoenix ... both exemplify the spirit of the rebirth of freedom and responsibility," the *LP News* story said, noting that the phoenix bird had been chosen as the motif for the convention.

Speakers for the convention were to include Murray Rothbard, talking about the Great Depression; Tonie Nathan, Doris Gordon and Della Scott discussing "the right to life and the right to death"; and Karl Hess, one of the best-known Libertarians ever.

May 1995

HEADLINE: NATIONAL OFFICE MOVING TO WATERGATE COMPLEX

"After being located for years in an office described by some in the media as 'a run-down row house in a Washington, DC, slum,' the Libertarian Party's national headquarters is moving next month. ...

"The party was able to afford the move because the Watergate is under new management and is aggressively seeking new tenants." "We are a frugal organization," LP National Director Perry Willis said. "And because we were patient we found something better than we had hoped for. And now we're moving into Washington's most prestigious address for the same price we'd pay for a mundane office in the business district."

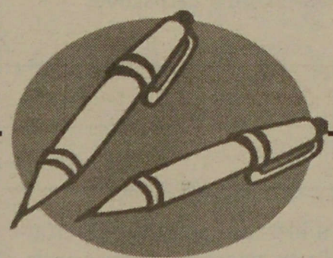
HEADLINE: LP GIVES GOP A B-MINUS FOR CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

"Now that the first 100 days of the 104th Congress are officially over, the Libertarian Party has issued a "freedom" report card on the Republican Party's Contract with America. And they give the Republicans a B-minus for their efforts.

"We wanted to wait until the finger-pointing, back-slapping, name-calling and congratulations have died down so we could make a calm, dispassionate assessment of the Contract with America," said Steve Dasbach, chairman of the national LP.

"Our grading criteria were simple: Did the elements of the Contract reduce the size, cost and intrusiveness of government? Did it increase the personal and economic freedom of American citizens?"

"Republicans missed many opportunities to do more," Dasbach noted. "The Republicans had a chance to make history, to launch a real revolution, and to live up to their libertarian campaign rhetoric."



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Southerland: Get active early — and stick with it

By Jessica Neno Wilson
LP DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Trevor Southerland's service to the Libertarian Party is nothing less than inspiring. In only five years as a member, he has held positions on the grassroots, college, county, state and national level.

One of the few things he hasn't attempted yet is running for public office, but he's got a really good excuse for that: At 19 years old, he doesn't qualify as a candidate for any elected offices in Chattanooga, Tenn., where he lives.

The current treasurer of the Tennessee LP, Southerland has been a member of the party since he was only 14, and established the LP affiliate in his county in Georgia when he was 15. He then served as the secretary of the Hamilton County, Tenn., LP — and is now in his second term as chairman of that group.

He also holds the position of editor of the LPTN newsletter, *The Voice of Freedom*, and he was secretary of the national LP's platform committee in 2004. Additionally, he is president of the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga's (UTC) Libertarian campus group.

In May, 2004, Southerland was elected as the first chairman of the National Libertarian Party Youth Caucus. He also came very close (19

votes short) to being elected as an at-large representative to the Libertarian National Committee.

As one of the (if not the very) youngest LP officers in the history of the party, Southerland is now in college at UTC and plans to graduate in 2007 with a major in political science and a minor in business administration.

After graduation, he said, "I'm hoping to get a job in Washington, DC, or another major city, and help advance the Libertarian cause."

And if his prior service is any indication, he'll likely make good on that goal.

Southerland realized early that he was a Libertarian — and he took it seriously. Now, a few years later, Southerland doesn't let his position as a student or his age stop him from supporting the LP in every way he can. In addition to his official positions, he volunteers for Libertarian campaigns and routinely collects signatures for ballot access.

Southerland even financially supports the LP. He became a Liberty Pledger in 2003 — at 17 — and finds giving regularly to be a principled and practical form of support.

"I believe in the Libertarian Party," he noted. "I have even stopped in a couple of times to the national office, and I always find the staff working very hard to advance our

causes. The party can't survive without funding and I want to make sure I'm doing everything possible to support my party."

Simply put, Southerland said, "You ought to support what you believe in with all you can — be

'AFTER READING THE Constitution and studying the various parties, I wondered if the Democrats or Republicans had bothered to read it.'

—Trevor Southerland

it your time, your finances or your wisdom."

Part of Southerland's mature passion for liberty comes from his family, particularly his grandfather.

"When I was younger my grandfather was active in the 'patriot movement,'" he said. "I remember passing out copies of the Declaration of Independence on the Fourth of July at our city's festivities when I was very young."

"I once asked my grandfather

'Are you Republican or Democrat?' and he told me 'If I was forced to join a party, it'd be the Libertarian Party.' After reading the Constitution and studying the various parties, I knew that I was a Libertarian — and wondered if the Democrats or Republicans had bothered to read the Constitution."

Southerland's first national Libertarian convention experience was in 2002, in Indianapolis. At the age of 17, he had been asked by then-Political Director Ron Crickenberger to give a short speech at the gala banquet.

Two years later, at the 2004 national convention in Atlanta, Southerland solidified his role as a powerful advocate for the participation of young people in the LP when he was elected chairman of the National Libertarian Party Youth Caucus (www.nlpyc.org).

The caucus was "established to be a loose connection of 'young' Libertarians," he said. "We're there to be of any assistance to any college [or other youth-oriented] Libertarian groups to help out by offering solutions to problems by using our own experience."

Southerland believes that youth outreach is a part of a broader focus on outreach and acquiring new members of the LP.

The general attitude of the LP is

"that people should want to come to the LP," he said. "I think we need to prove to them why they should want to be associated with the LP! The party must continue to grow, and that should be our top objective for 2005. Our national staff needs to be expanded to better meet the needs of our members."

Surprisingly enough, with several jobs, schoolwork, and his voluminous vitae of LP activism, Southerland finds time and energy to cultivate other interests. He is an enthusiastic supporter of his university's athletic and music departments, and is a leader in his church community.

He admitted that he is stretched a little thin sometimes: "There are only so many hours in the day."

However, he continued with characteristic optimism, "I try to use at least 20 of them productively!"

With focus and drive like this, the Republicans and Democrats better watch out! When Southerland can run for office as a Libertarian he will certainly be a formidable opponent.

And having gained more political experience before he could legally vote than many people have in a lifetime, Southerland stands to be a leader in the Libertarian Party (and broader libertarian movement) for quite a long time!

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X *Steve Smith*

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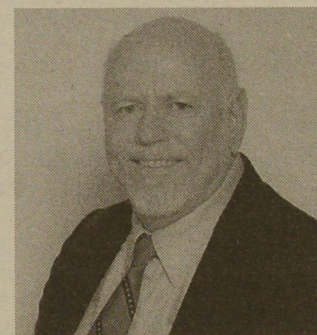
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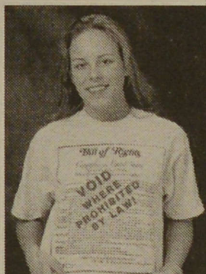
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UPCOMING

■ April 29-May 1, 2005

Pennsylvania LP Convention, at the Harrisburg Hilton Hotel. Speakers to include LNC representative Jim Lark; Matthew Brouillette of the Commonwealth Foundation, and 2004 LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. For more information, contact Ron Goodman at cumberland@lppa.org.

■ April 29-May 1, 2005

Indiana LP Convention, at the Holiday Inn Lakeview in Clarksville, Ind. Speakers to include syndicated columnist Vin Suprynowicz; Willie Star Marshall, mayor of Big Water, Utah; Abdul Hakim Shabazz, Indianapolis radio show host; and Jason Shelley of the National Federation of Independent Business. For more information, visit www.lpin.org, e-mail lpinhq@lpin.org, or call (317) 487-8337.

■ April 29-May 1, 2005

North Carolina LP Convention, at the Park Inn Hotel, in Hickory. Banquet address by LNC Chair Michael Dixon. To register, or for more information, go to www.lpnc.org/convention/.

■ May 4, 2005

Cato Institute City Seminar, The Palmer House Hilton, Chicago, Ill. "The Great Debate: Should Social Security be reformed?" Featuring syndicated columnist Robert D. Novak and Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research. Visit www.cato.org or contact Lesley Albanese at (202) 789-5223 or e-mail lalbanese@cato.org for more information.

■ May 12-14, 2005

FreedomFest 2005, sponsored by the Young America's Foundation, at Bally's/Paris Resort, Las Vegas, Nev. For information, go to www.freedomfest.com.



■ Suprynowicz

■ May 14, 2005

Libertarian National Committee meeting, in Dallas, Texas.

■ May 21, 2005

Ohio LP Convention, at the Holiday Inn on the Lane, Ohio State University campus, in Columbus. Theme: "Think nationally, act locally: Liberty in my back yard." For information, visit www.lpo.org or call (800) 669-6542.

■ June 5, 2005

Hawaii LP Convention, Call (808) 537-3078 for information.

■ June 25-26, 2005

5th Freedom Summit, at the Radisson Hotel in Manchester, NH. Speakers to include Nathaniel Branden, James Bovard, Ron Paul, Vin Suprynowicz and many others. Visit www.freedomsummit.com for information.

■ July 10-15, 2005

ISIL's 24th Annual World Conference, in St. Petersburg, Russia. Celebrating "The Year of Ayn Rand," (it marks the 100th anniversary of her birth) the International Society for Individual Liberty will hold its annual conference in Rand's home city — concentrating on the enormous influence the author had on the world of individualist and free-market philosophy. For details, go to www.FreeMarket.net; e-mail isil@isil.org; or call (707) 746-8796.



■ Ayn Rand

■ July 23-31, 2005

Free State Project Freedom Festival, at Roger's Campground, Lancaster, NH. Admission is free. For reservations, call Roger's at (603) 636-1062. Go to freestateproject.org/festival for information.

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■ **PAGE 1** Libertarian elected to city council — without running

■ **PAGE 3** Ben Brandon: Changing politics in Dade County, Ga.

■ **PAGE 8** LP honored at election reform event



FIRST WORD

"Unlike the Green Party, which can be taken as a more specific and radical offshoot of the Democratic Party ('Democrat squared,' as alternative publisher Olga Gardner Galvin describes it), the Libertarian Party offers a little of both major parties.

"The Libertarians' atheism, together with the hedonism-as-a-virtue outlook they share with Democrats, allows them to laugh with the left at the 'Puritanism' of the right. But their ability to view and digest the right's good-sense policies without knee-jerk antagonism enables Libertarians to roll their eyes along with Republicans at the political correctness and dogoodism of the left's compassionate classes.

"Politically, the Libertarian world isn't a bad place to be. Libertarians have more credibility with the left than Republicans do, even though their conservative side is callous compared with the charitable Christian right. And they have more credibility with the right than Democrats do, despite being more godless than the left.

"If Republicans and Democrats are the thesis and antithesis, Libertarians are a synthesis.

"Even if this party never puts a candidate into the Oval Office, its ultimate purpose may be to help the two opposing major parties view each other through more sober lenses, and thus help the country arrive at a happy, if gay, marriage."

—JULIA GORIN, *The Wall Street Journal*, March 15, 2005