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## Executive Director Seehusen resigns

**A**fter just over two years as executive director of the national Libertarian Party, Joe Seehusen spent his last day in the office on Aug. 4.

The Libertarian National Committee voted at their May meeting in Dallas to renew Seehusen's contract for another two years.

"I am honored and gratified by the confidence the board showed in my work by its 11-3 vote to renew my contract," he said. "I truly felt honored. I really care for the staff and the Libertarian Party's donors. However, I feel that my skills may be more valuable in another venue."

Seehusen said he has "no immediate plans," but he expects "to begin to explore potential opportunities in the fall."

"My only immediate plans are to join my family on vacation for the balance of the summer," he added.

Seehusen was hired in May 2003 to replace former executive director Steve Dasbach, who resigned in late 2002.

Members of the LNC expressed their gratitude to Seehusen for his work at the party's national headquarters:

■ "I really want to brag on Joe and the hard work he did to help stabilize the party, reduce our overhead and get us out of debt in the time he worked as the executive director," said Michael Dixon, national LP chairman. "And I certainly wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors. I hope that he'll do great things for the movement in whatever he chooses to do next."

■ "Finding Joe Seehusen was the best thing to happen to the Iowa LP in 2000, and having him assume the executive director's job in 2003 was the best thing that could happen to the LNC,"

See **SEEHUSEN** Page 3

# LNC approves zero dues

**A**t their meeting in Kansas City Aug. 5-7, members of the Libertarian National Committee voted to lower membership dues for the national Libertarian Party at zero, opening the door for anyone to become a member of the party at no cost.

This overturned their earlier decision — made in late February — to double membership dues from \$25 to \$50.

The LNC also voted to end the United Membership Program (UMP), which served as an agreement between the LNC and the Libertarian Party's state affiliates.

Through that agreement, each state was provided with revenue based on how many dues-paying members of the national LP lived in the state.

Within the same motion, members of the national staff were instructed to develop plans and set aside funds to begin extensive training for LP members, state officers, campaign managers, activists and candidates.

The areas of training will include ballot access, FEC compliance, fundraising, database usage, member recruitment and candidate recruitment and training.

"The shift to a zero-dues structure, which is slated to take effect on Jan. 1, 2006, will essentially move the national LP from an organization heavily focused on membership to an organization that is

focused on winning elections above all else," said LP Communications Director Shane Cory. "At national headquarters, we have already started planning to make a seamless transition to zero dues."

State party affiliates are also considering their best course of action in moving forward — deciding whether to begin charging dues or to operate on a contribution-only status like the national party. The UMP phase-out process will begin Sept. 30.

After Jan. 1, 2006, the only requirement of membership to the national LP will be for the individual to certify that he or she does "not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, new members will receive a welcome package but will not receive a subscription to *LP News*. Instead, the official party newspaper will be available by a separate subscription process.

Current members whose memberships are set to expire after that date will receive *LP News* for the remainder of their current subscription.

"Members should note that membership in the LP remains important as it will count toward the member's home state delegate allocation at the LP's national convention," Cory said.

The 2006 convention is set for

the weekend immediately preceding July 4.

"Also, the National Libertarian Party's income will soon be based solely upon donations from its members, so supporters of the Libertarian Party are strongly encouraged to start a monthly pledge in order to ease this transition."

In addition to preparing for the move to zero dues, LP headquarters

staff has already begun preparation for the training the LNC instructed them to provide.

"We'll have very exciting news to share in the coming months, regarding that training," Cory said. "Let me just say that we won't simply be putting together training manuals. We're going to work hard to create an intensive program that will greatly benefit the LP."



■ On July 26, Geng KeMin — a representative of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China — visited LP headquarters in Washington, D.C. He spoke with LP Executive Director Joe Seehusen, asking about the origins of the LP, the party's platform and philosophy, and how smaller political parties are funded. Geng KeMin also visited the Republican and Democratic national committees while in Washington.

## Preparing for U.S. House elections

**C**ongressional mid-term elections will take place next year. All 435 House seats will be up for election, along with 33 Senate seats — and now is the time for Libertarians to get active, to have an impact in the upcoming elections.

At least 11 House seats will be open, either through retirement or vacancy, and many representatives are leaving their seats and choosing to run for governor or the senate. These open seats provide the best opportunity for Libertarians to have an impact — either by winning or by helping to decide the outcome of the race.

This is true because open seats

provide the most competitive races. None of the candidates running have the advantage of being an incumbent, therefore there is a more level playing field.

With this in mind, a strategy of running Libertarian candidates in targeted congressional districts that have open seats has great potential for tremendous results.

Because of the highly competitive nature of these races, a Libertarian candidate pulling 10 percent of the votes can single-handedly decide the election. Targeting certain open seats will allow us to pool our political resources and have a bigger impact.

After open seats, the next most

competitive races for Libertarians to enter are those where the incumbent representatives have served only one term.

These incumbents are more vulnerable — their incumbent advantage is not as strong — because they have had a shorter time to amass a large war chest and solidify support in their districts.

At the recent Libertarian National Committee meeting in Kansas City, the LNC voted to direct the national LP headquarters staff to develop training materials for candidates and for state party leaders, and in the coming weeks the staff will be discussing the 2006 federal House races the Libertarian Party

should consider targeting.

Republicans could be vulnerable in next year's House elections because of the growing opposition to the Iraq war. The Republican Party has yet to provide a plan for withdrawal from Iraq. Instead there are conflicting reports coming from the current administration concerning the war.

This is where the Libertarian Party has the advantage; we have an exit strategy for bringing the troops home.

A concentrated effort by the Libertarian Party in next year's House elections provides a great opportunity for success, which could bring about real political change.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### PA legislators get surreptitious pay raise

Members of the Pennsylvania state legislature raised their own pay between 16 to 34 percent during a July midnight session right before leaving for summer vacation. With this pay increase, they are the highest paid legislators in the country with the exception of California.

Leadership received the largest increase in pay. The Speaker of the House and Senate President pro tempore received a 34 percent raise, while committee chairmen received a 28 percent raise. Rank-and-file legislators got a 16 percent increase.

The legislators found a way around a constitutional provision that prevents them from collecting a pay raise that is passed during the same term. Now the lawmakers can get their pay raise six months early by classifying it as "unvouchered expenses."

These hefty pay raises are in addition to the full pension and health benefits, cost-of-living pay increases and a \$650 monthly allowance to lease a car. Lawmakers also receive a \$128 per day expense allowance while in session — not to mention the host of other benefits they receive.

Unfortunately for these greedy Pennsylvania politicians, word spread quickly, and the incident has become a public outrage.

Pennsylvanians are mounting their opposition and will not let this pay raise stand without a fight.

### Bush pays lip service to protecting liberty

According to a recent report in the *Washington Post*, the civil liberties board — whose goal is to make sure individual rights are not trampled upon during the so-called "War on Terror" — has yet to meet and is under-funded by the Bush administration.

Created by Congress last year, the board consists of five members nominated by the president to act as an independent watchdog against potential abuses of the PATRIOT Act. President Bush took six months to appoint five members to the panel. In his proposed budget for fiscal year 2006, he allocated \$750,000 for the panel, while a similar panel in the Department of Homeland Security has a budget of \$13 million. As House Republican Christopher Shay commented, "It's not a priority for the administration."

Even more alarming is that the civil liberties panel has no subpoena powers or independent authority to properly investigate violations of the act. It is a watchdog with no teeth.

Additionally, the current Republican administration has signaled — by making this panel a low priority — that law enforcement agencies actually have free rein.

The very fact that a panel has been established shows the potential for abuse under the PATRIOT Act. The Bush administration and Congress are required to take this issue seriously. And now it's time for our government to stop "putting on a show" regarding civil liberties and to start looking out for the rights of all Americans.

### TSA using scare tactics to get personal info

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) plans soon to begin collecting even more personal information from people boarding planes. Airline customers will be encouraged, but not required, to participate in the Secure Flight initiative that begins testing this month.

But while allowing personal information to be entered into yet another government database is not currently going to be required, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff is doing his best to scare travelers into "volunteering" their information. He went so far as to tell *USA Today* that he believes "giving up a little bit of more information protects privacy." He needs to rethink his definition of privacy.

Chertoff has also expressed strong support for a program that would issue special identification cards to those travelers who have provided extensive personal information and who are certified as having no terrorist ties or criminal warrants. In essence, he wants to institute a passport for traveling within the United States, a passport that would involve background checks on anyone who wants to save embarrassment or a few minutes at the airport.

He seems to miss the obvious: Terrorists can easily get around background checks, either by stealing someone else's identity or by maintaining a clean criminal record until they're ready to attack.

"This is yet another anti-terrorism initiative that will not increase safety," said Shane Cory, director of communications for the national Libertarian Party. "It will only infringe on the rights of law-abiding citizens. This Republican administration cannot continue using the War on Terror as an excuse to delve into Americans' personal lives."

The Secure Flight initiative is the second time the TSA has tried to collect more information from airline passengers. The first — CAPPS II — was stopped last year over the concern it was too intrusive.

# Libertarian Party Bylaws Committee seeks input on proposed changes

By Geoffrey Neale

CHAIR, 2006 BYLAWS COMMITTEE

The 2006 Bylaws Committee has already been formed, and is hard at work.

In the past, this committee was populated around six months prior to the convention, with much of the business taking place at the convention itself.

For the 2006 convention in Portland, Ore., the Libertarian National Committee decided to continue on with the winning formula established with the 2004 Platform Committee, which reviewed and refined their proposals for the Atlanta convention over a much greater period of time.

At the May 2004 LNC meeting, the 2006 Bylaws Committee was populated. The members of the committee are Fred Collins, Tim Hagan, William Hall, Sean Haugh, Dan Karlan, Deryl Martin, Rick McGinnis, Carl Milsted, Rich Moroney and Geoffrey Neale.

Since we do not formally meet until just prior to the 2006 convention, we are not conducting formal business.

Instead, we have decided to use "sentiment" polling to rank and filter all proposals for change that come before the committee. Each member ranks his sentiments for each proposal, saying he is strongly opposed, somewhat opposed, neutral, somewhat in favor or strongly in favor. By assigning a numerical value to these sentiments, we are able to gauge the degree to which each proposal is supported.

We do not craft language for a proposal until the average sentiment for that proposal is at least a 4 — meaning "somewhat in favor." Once a proposal has reached this threshold, we can start working on the specific language. Further, no final decisions will be made on any proposal until the committee meets in person just before the convention. Any member who chooses is welcome to attend these meetings.

We are actively welcoming proposals from the Libertarian Party membership at large for changes to

the LP's bylaws, and we also welcome the feedback of our members.

While there are 10 people on this committee, it is entirely possible that we will not see every advantage or pitfall that the many and various proposals present.

So if you have a suggestion, please feel free to share it with us. We will be launching a Web site for member review, but this site is not yet available.

We also plan on publishing our proposals, and the thinking behind them, in the *LP News* on a regular basis. We avidly want our delegates to be informed of what we are pro-

convention is a small portion of the total delegates, and the process is expensive because of the requirement to rent tabulation equipment and have machine readable forms printed.

To date, not one plank has been deleted through this process.

Additionally, the bylaws still provide for the deletion of any plank on a simple majority vote.

In short, we feel that removing this procedure will simplify the convention and reduce costs, yet will remove no power from the delegates.

### ■ Proposal 2: Eliminate the Libertarian Party Program.

The program is a document that the bylaws requires be written by the LNC.

According to the bylaws, this document is to be "a maximum of 10 issues; which are currently receiving widespread, national public attention; are readily identifiable by most individuals as matters which affect them personally and directly; and offer interim or transitional proposals which move toward a libertarian society, which are clearly identified as interim or transitional proposals."

This sounds like a great idea. The problem is that the LNC has given little or no attention to this document in recent memory, because the purpose of the LNC is not to be a document creation committee, but to be the board of directors of the Libertarian Party.

Eliminating this bylaw does not mean we cannot have such a document. It just means that we are not mandating the document in our bylaws.

In coming months, we'll keep you updated on other proposals.

■ **About the author:** Geoffrey Neale is chairman of the 2006 Bylaws Committee. From 2002-2004 he was chairman of the national LP. Anyone wishing to respond to the Bylaws Committee concerning these two proposals can send input to Neale at [liber8or@austin.rr.com](mailto:liber8or@austin.rr.com), until the committee's Web site is completed.

**WE AVIDLY WANT  
our delegates to be  
informed of what we  
are proposing as long  
as possible  
in advance of  
the 2006 convention.**

posing as far as possible in advance of the 2006 Convention.

To date, we have several proposals that have reached the threshold, and I will relate just two of them to you at this time.

### ■ Proposal 1: Eliminate the platform retention voting.

Our current bylaws call for a very complicated process mandated for the review of every plank in our party platform. It is called the platform retention vote.

The intention of this process was to provide a simple mechanism for our members to vote up or down on every plank in the platform.

In principle, this sounds fine, but the mechanics are difficult.

The bylaws require electronic tabulation, a three-hour voting window, and a secondary review of any planks to be deleted based upon this vote.

The number of votes cast in each

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



# LP Executive Director Seehusen resigns; new ED search underway

Continued from Page 1

said Mark Nelson, national LP treasurer. "Joe helped lead the party out of the financial mess following the 2002 convention, and raised our expectations for the national office to the next level."

■ National Secretary Bob Sullentrup saluted Seehusen for "having accepted the job when the party was in dire straits and for managing to gain traction in fundraising and outreach."

"Joe was able to do this despite having too few resources at his disposal, as well as having to deal with distractions that in other circumstances would not have siphoned his attention," Sullentrup added.

■ "I am sad to see Joe leave us, as he has brought us miles forward from where we were when he came on board," said George Squyres, Region 6 representative to the LNC. "But someone of Joe's caliber is going to be recruited by people a few rungs up the ladder from us, and freedom fighters always look for the next battle. We wish Joe well."

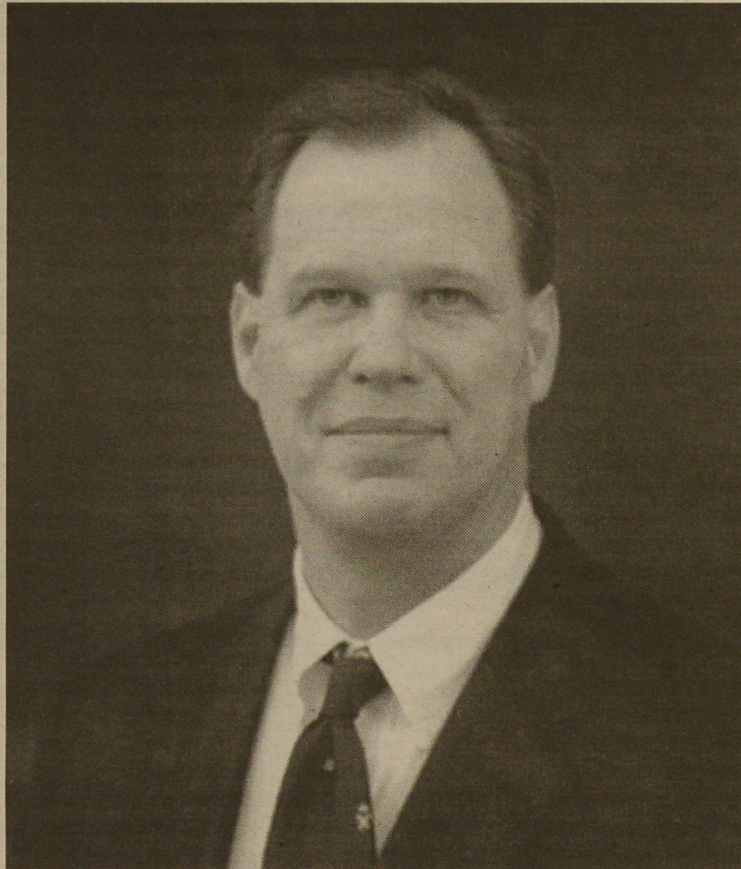
■ "It was a pleasure working with Joe," said Jeremy Keil, Region 5 West representative to the LNC. "He has a great vision of where the Libertarian Party needs to go to become more effective in the political arena, and he did a great job of focusing the party's staff on outreach projects. I hope we can find someone with a similar focus and vision to lead the party's day-to-day operations."

■ "Joe made serious inroads with developing our relationship with other established organizations with overlapping goals," said Mark Rutherford, at-large representative to the LNC.

"He also was a major factor in leading the LP out of the serious financial woes that developed when he started working for the LP in 2003," Rutherford continued. "His efforts helped us to avoid 'rock bottom' and to quickly rebound despite the extreme financial difficulties. These efforts greatly advanced the Libertarian Party."

"It is very difficult and taxing to work for a political organization, and I never fault anyone who decides it is time to move away from it. I wish him the best of luck and success with his future ventures."

Similarly, Seehusen extended his "very best wishes to the Libertarian Party, its activists and donors, and



■ Executive Director Joe Seehusen

to the staff. A lot of people have done a great deal of work and we have a good crew at LP headquarters right now."

He also paid "special thanks to former national LP Chairman Geoff Neale, for the role he played as the chief architect of the party's turnaround" in 2003.

In his letter of resignation, tendered to the LNC on July 25, Seehusen listed what he considers his greatest successes while leading the LP's national office, including moving from "financial insolvency to solvency"; increasing membership after a four-year decline; building a Web site "which has eclipsed both the Republican and Democratic parties as measured by Web traffic"; developing an outreach program in recent months; and "promoting the Libertarian brand in political and activist circles in Washington."

Admiral Michael Colley (Ret.), a retired Navy submariner and an at-large representative to the LNC, is chairman of the party's Employment Policy and Compensation Committee, and thus is responsible for finding qualified applicants to succeed Seehusen as executive director.

"I have been reviewing his contract, and I've requested that all

members of the LNC think about possible candidates and pass me resumes, to assist with this search," Colley said.

"I'm also going to consult with one or more executive search professionals," he said. "It's generally smart to get expert help, since we're amateurs at this."

Colley said he is interested in hiring both an executive director and an office manager.

"My suggestion all along has been that the party headquarters needs both a 'Mr. Outside,' to do outreach and project the party in the Washington area, and a 'Mr. Inside,' to help the headquarters staff function efficiently and coherently," he said. "We have a small staff and there's a lot to do, so we need to have the office operate as efficiently as possible."

No projected time frame for hiring a new executive director has been set.

"Obviously we want to do it soon," Colley said. "But that said, finding the right person is more important than finding someone quickly. I will be in the Washington, D.C., area for much of the fall, so I'll be in the office a good deal and should be able to spend a significant amount of time in the search."

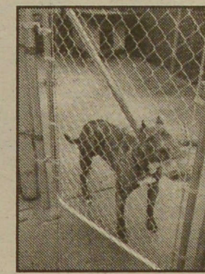
## POLITICS 2005

### Gun registration, IRS and science fiction

■ The LP of Utah has announced a "Fair Representation Challenge" to the leaders of Utah's Democratic and Republican parties. The challenge will measure which party does the most to make Utah's elections more competitive and representative by the end of the state legislature's 2006 general session. State LP Chair Rob Latham and other Libertarians will encourage their candidates in swing districts to "spoil" the candidates of the party that does the least to open up the two-party system.

■ According to the Competitive Enterprise Institute, the energy bill sent to Congress for approval in late July was disappointing — primarily because of a "huge new mandate for ethanol use," according to Myron Ebell, CEI's director of global warming policy. "Since ethanol already receives a large federal subsidy, this mandate will hurt taxpayers and consumers. It is simply a payoff to special interests."

■ "The next time you hear someone scoff at the NRA's objection that gun registration leads to gun confiscation, tell them about Denver, Colorado, where dogs must be registered," says Ray Babecki, a member of the New Jersey LP. "Denver also passed a ban on owning pit bulls, then police went door-to-door to confiscate the dogs." According to an Associated Press report, Denver police and animal control officers collected more than 380 pit bulls between May and late July, and had "destroyed" at least 260 of them. Why? Denver City Councilman Charlie Brown said, "pit bulls are trained to attack. They're bred to do that." And it doesn't matter whether the dogs in question had done so. They were considered dangerous and were destroyed. Babecki noted that the same tactics could be used to confiscate weapons.



■ On Aug. 12, income tax protester Larken Rose was found, by a federal jury in Philadelphia, Penn., to be guilty of five counts of "willful failure to file federal income tax returns." Rose willfully failed to file personal federal income tax returns for calendar years 1998 through 2002, despite earning \$500,000 during those years, according to the court. Rose argued that he owed no income tax because his income wasn't taxable under Internal Revenue Code Section 861 — but the judge told the jury that the Section 861 argument is invalid and inadmissible. Rose could be sentenced in November for up to 12 months for each of the five counts of which he was found guilty.

■ At the 63<sup>rd</sup> World Science Fiction Convention in Glasgow, Scotland, on Aug. 5, the Libertarian Futurist Society gave a special Prometheus Award for "reaching new audiences by presenting a libertarian classic in graphic form" to author L. Neil Smith and artist Scott Bieser. The book, *The Probability Broach: The Graphic Novel*, is a condensed adaptation of Smith's Prometheus-winning novel. Two libertarian anthologies edited by Mark Tier and Martin H. Greenberg — *Give Me Liberty* and *Visions of Liberty* — also received an award "for having a positive effect on the dissemination of libertarian ideas."



■ Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, was quoted in an Aug. 9 story in the *Concord (N.H.) Monitor*, as saying of New Hampshire: "We have a state that, while it's libertarian, I think is dismayed by the conduct of the president in terms of ethics [and] his willingness to invade people's personal life." This libertarian streak, Dean argued, should give Democrats an advantage in New Hampshire — and across the nation — in the 2008 presidential election. Why not the Libertarian Party? We'll have to wait and see.

■ According to *FreeMarketNews.com*, the Supreme Court's recent decision regarding eminent domain "has resulted in the potential confiscation of another justice's property — Justice Steven Breyer. First it was Justice David A. Souter who was faced with removal of property in the wake of the Supreme Court's surprising decision that eminent domain can be used to confiscate people's homes in order to raise more tax revenue.... Now a group of New Hampshire citizens plans a Constitution Park on 167 acres in Plainfield, N.H., owned by Justice Breyer." One man behind the proposed eminent domain proceedings against the Supreme Court justices said he hopes the attacks on these two justices will generate political action in the New Hampshire legislature to minimize eminent domain confiscation within that state.

## Beginner's Introduction

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## LOOKING BACK

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** LP News has been published continuously since 1972. This is a showcase for the top stories from 10, 20 and 30 years ago.

### September-October 1975

#### HEADLINE: IT'S MACBRIDE IN '76

Roger L. MacBride won the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination with a convincing first ballot victory over two rivals at the LP's national convention, held in New York City during the last week of August. MacBride, a Charlottesville, Va., lawyer and television producer, accepted the nomination before nearly 500 cheering libertarians and vowed "in this campaign, which begins this very minute, there will be no compromise of principle!"

David P. Bergland, an attorney from Huntington Beach, Calif., gained the vice presidential nod on the third ballot. The convention received extensive national media coverage, including several minutes of prime-time television news on CBS and NBC ...

"It is imperative," MacBride said, "that we make it clear that we are not an 'offshoot' of the conservative movement — that we are as far from conservatives philosophically as we are from the liberals."

#### HEADLINE: HQ MOVES TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

The national headquarters of the Libertarian Party has been moved to the nation's capitol. In a related matter it was announced that national chairman Edward H. Crane will take on full-time responsibility for managing the party's affairs and that the chairmanship will become a salaried position.

"In the past I have been strongly opposed to moving to Washington, D.C.," said Crane, "but I have reluctantly come to the conclusion that such a move is now indicated." He said that the rapid growth of the LP has placed the party in a position to maximize its media exposure in that city. "My fear that moving to Washington might eventually lead the party to compromise its principles was largely allayed by the actions of the delegates at the national convention when they adopted such an uncompromising platform," Crane added.

### September 1985

#### HEADLINE: 'FREEDOM REBORN' CHARTS NEW COURSE

The 400 delegates and others who attended the August 14-18 "Freedom Reborn" LP convention in Phoenix found a marked contrast between it and the LP convention held two years earlier in New York City. There were about 200 fewer attendees in Phoenix, which some attributed to lack of pre-convention publicity and the absence of a hotly contested presidential nomination fight.

#### HEADLINE: RANDOLPH DEFECTS

In a surprising move, former Alaska LP State Chair and 1982 gubernatorial candidate Dick Randolph formally announced that he is joining the Republican Party in order to compete in the 1986 Alaska GOP primary race for governor.

In an interview with the *All-Alaska Weekly*, Randolph admitted that he was seriously considering running for the Republican nomination, noting that he "would like very much to be governor." Asked why he was leaving the LP, Randolph said he was disappointed with the fact that the party was not gaining members and was "at a very low ebb of activity."

He said that the decline was due in part to the "co-optation of the libertarian message by Reagan conservatives."

### September 1995

#### HEADLINE: THE X FACTOR: LP APPEALS TO AMERICAN YOUTH

What's the future of American politics?

Libertarianism, according to a front-page article in the nation's largest newspaper, *USA Today*, on July 26.

The story, entitled "The GenX Philosophy: Many reject politics, lean libertarian," declared: "What liberalism was to the Sixties and conservatism was to the Eighties, libertarianism may be to the youth of the 1990s."

Libertarian Party National Director Perry Ellis agreed wholeheartedly. "USA Today is absolutely correct," he said. "The growing appeal of libertarianism to Generation Xers is the political tsunami that will reshape American government. Generation Xers have experienced first-hand the failures of liberalism and conservatism."

The article continued: "Many of the 41 million members of Generation X are turning to ... libertarianism, a mixture of liberal views on social issues and a conservative bent on pocketbook concerns."

# Badnarik for Congress

Michael Badnarik, the 2004 presidential candidate for the Libertarian Party, has announced his candidacy in the 2006 election for Texas' 10th congressional district.

The announcement was made Aug. 6 in Kansas City during an outreach dinner with the Libertarian National Committee.

The 10th district congressional seat in Texas is currently held by Republican Michael McCaul, a former federal prosecutor who is responsible for a program that has prosecuted more than 1,000 people for possessing firearms. McCaul points with pride to his role in fighting terrorism; he currently sits on the Homeland Security Committee and is a strong advocate for preserving and expanding the so-called USA PATRIOT Act.

While his opponent has been a career government employee, Badnarik was a high-level computer programmer by trade until he shifted to teaching to pursue his passion for the Constitution. Badnarik created and teaches an eight-hour "Introduction to the Constitution" class, now available on DVD, and is also author of *Good To Be King: The Foundation of Our Constitutional Freedom*.

The Badnarik for Congress campaign has set its focus on three general issues — family, property and security — each with from one to three topics.

The "family" focus will be on parental rights and federal bounties

on broken families.

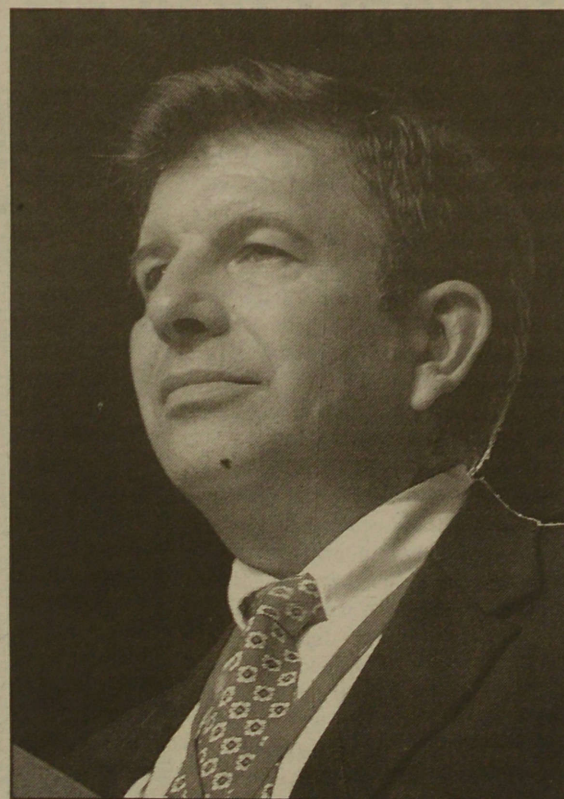
The "property" focus will be on eminent domain abuse and federal subsidies to local governments who maintain redevelopment agencies.

And under "security," the campaign will clarify the immigration and border questions and federal aggravations of international relations, and oppose the PATRIOT Act trend toward totalitarian government.

Campaign staff notes that this campaign is relevant to Libertarians all across the country, because a congressman's votes affect everyone in the country.

The campaign is talking to long-time supporters all over the country and getting their support — and campaign staff members said they expect to vastly increase Libertarian-oriented voter registration and membership in the 10th and surrounding districts.

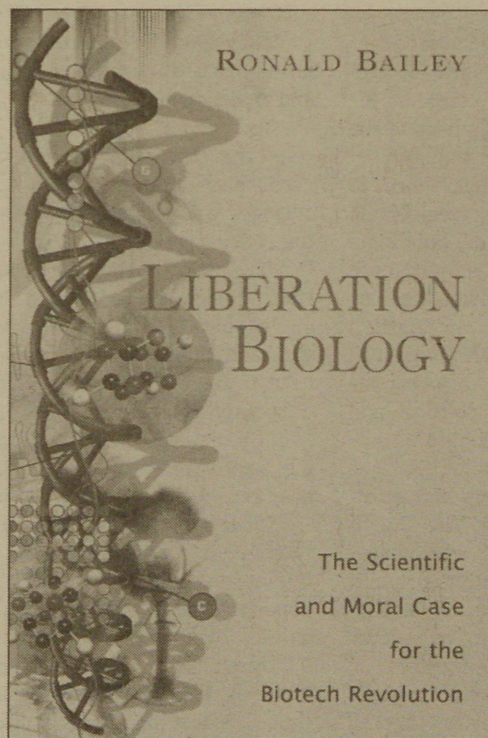
Badnarik says he is very excited



about the campaign and is "looking forward to being the first Libertarian elected to Congress."

The campaign has established its headquarters in Austin, Texas, and is in the process of updating the [www.badnarik.org](http://www.badnarik.org) Web site. Badnarik has retained the services of California business and political consultant, Allen Hacker.

For more information on the campaign, visit [www.badnarik.org](http://www.badnarik.org).



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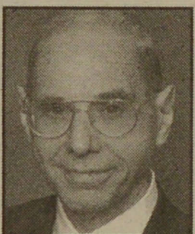
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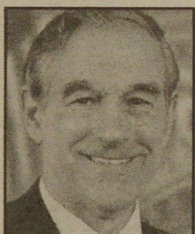
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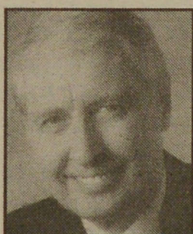
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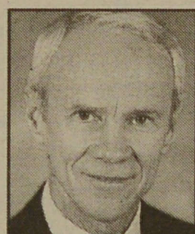
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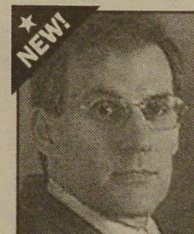
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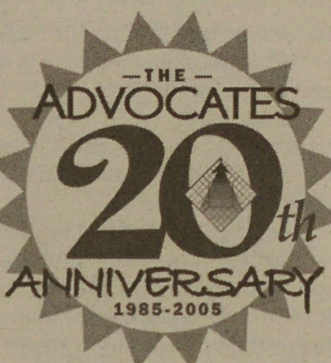
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## TALKING POINTS

# Voting rights, charter schools, and Jagger didn't insult Bush

### ■ Tax reform

Will President Bush reverse course on fiscal policy and raise taxes? At first thought that seems unlikely because the president would not want to tarnish his tax-cutting record. But "tax reform" has replaced "tax cuts" on the Washington agenda, and that poses dangers for taxpayers.

The president's tax reform panel ... will report its findings in September. The panel is charged with proposing "revenue-neutral" options, which seems to rule out tax increases. However, ... higher taxes threaten to become part of tax reform.

Unfortunately, President Bush has a record of sending reform-oriented bills to Congress that get morphed into big government bills and then signing them into law anyway to score legislative victories. The 2002 education bill and 2003 prescription drug bill are wonderfully depressing examples.

Might there be a similar disaster with tax reform? Would the president sign a "reform" bill that made his prior tax cuts permanent, sprinkled in breaks for his favored causes such as education and imposed a VAT to win the votes of deficit hawks? I fear such a "bipartisan compromise" would create a more powerful tax engine that fuels higher government growth.

—CHRIS EDWARDS

*The Washington Times*  
August 8, 2005

### ■ Business as usual

Estimated amount spent lobbying Congress last year: \$3,000,000,000

Number of former members of Congress or federal-agency heads who are now lobbyists: 240

Total value of congressional earmarks to appropriations bills last year: \$32,700,000,000

Factor by which this exceeded the amount in 1998: 3

—HARPER'S INDEX

*Harper's Magazine*  
July 2005

### ■ Ohioan suffrage

A coalition of voter advocates, led by the League of Women Voters of Ohio, today plans to file what it calls a "historic, nonpartisan lawsuit" compelling the state to fix its system of elections.

The lawsuit, to be filed in federal court in Toledo, alleges that Ohio Secretary of State J. Kenneth Blackwell, Gov. Bob Taft and their predecessors failed to ensure the right to vote in Ohio.

"We hope this lawsuit will get the result all Ohioans need in order to have confidence the ballots they cast will be counted," said Scott Britton, executive director of the league.

The state has violated the equal-protection and due-process clauses of the Constitution and failed to meet its obligations under the federal Help America Vote Act passed in 2002 to reform elections, accord-

ing to the complaint.

Attorneys said the lawsuit is not based on one election but rather chronicles voting deficiencies over three decades — including problems with voter registration, the training of poll workers and allocation of voting machines.

The Ohio Legislature also is considering a bill to update the state's election laws. The House passed a bill last month, and it is being considered in the Senate.

But Jon Greenbaum, director of the Lawyers' Committee for Voting Rights Project, said there's no guarantee the bill will become law, and that it still doesn't adequately address election problems.

—MARK NIQUETTE AND JOE HALLETT

*The Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*  
July 28, 2005

### ■ Bush not Stoned

Sir Mick Jagger has denied that a new Rolling Stones song called "Sweet Neo Con" is an attack on President Bush.

"It's not aimed, personally aimed, at President Bush," he said. "It wouldn't be called 'Sweet Neo Con' if it was."

The singer told U.S. TV show "Extra": "It's not really aimed at anyone." On the track, he sings: "You call yourself a Christian, I call you a hypocrite."

—BBC NEWS

August 11, 2005

### ■ Kids these days!

Fresno, California, police sent three squad cars and a helicopter to arrest Maribel Cuevas. Is she an armed robber? A terrorist? No, she's an 11-year-old girl who threw a rock and hit one of several boys who had pelted her with water balloons.

When she saw she'd hit the boy, who admitted he started the fight, she quickly sought help and apologized.

But when officers arrived they

grabbed her, pushed her to the ground and one put a knee on her back to restrain her. They then handcuffed her and put her into a police car. Her mother, who says the police pushed her away when she tried to go to her, says Maribel's wrists were bruised from the handcuffs.

Maribel, who was kept in juvenile hall without contact from her parents for five nights, now faces a felony charge of assault with a deadly weapon.

—CHARLES OLIVER\*

*Reason Online*

August 3, 2005

### ■ Struggle, not war

Responding to the American public's mounting suspicion that the White House is either lying to us about the Iraqi War going according to plan, or the plan really sucks ... the administration has decided the source of the problem is not their doomed policy but rather the slogan they are using to sell it.

So "the war on terrorism," has officially been replaced with "the struggle against violent extremism." Which clears things up like a double-hulled oil tanker spill in a nine-inch kiddie wading pool.

Like a floundering hurricane losing wind speed over a land mass, the war has been downgraded to a struggle. I don't know about you, but I feel much better already.

It's all about reframing, such as the word "bribe" being replaced with "campaign contribution," when we all know the major difference between the two is five syllables.

The problem here is the word "war." Unfortunate term. Unduly contentious. Steeped with insinuations of antagonism. Indicative of an enterprise to be either won or lost.

As we are currently exhibiting some of the signs normally associated with losing, i.e., a whole bunch of dead soldiers, it's obviously time for a change.

—WILL DURST

*WorkingForChange.com*

August 4, 2005

### ■ Dr. 'Personal Freedom'

Jack Kevorkian was once a regular feature on the nightly news, a figure of ferocious controversy and a pop-culture icon at the same time.

That was back in the long-ago 1990s, when every American knew his name and virtually nobody had heard of Osama bin Laden.

Today, Dr. Death sits in a jail cell in Lapeer, Mich., 77 years old, out

of touch with the media and nearly forgotten. But ... he has a new cause, a new passion, and a new book: *Amendment IX: Our Cornucopia of Rights*.

Simply put, it is about one of the least-known amendments in the Bill of Rights.

The Ninth Amendment says: "The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

For the former pathologist, that says it all.

"Every human being is born with the lifelong, powerful, unalterable, essentially instinctual will or drive to absolute personal freedom," Kevorkian declares at the beginning of his short (65 pages) paperback.

He believes the Ninth Amendment guarantees the right of assisted suicide, or, as he would put it, "the right to seek a competent medical professional's assistance in ending unendurable suffering."

He also thinks it guarantees the right to marry anyone of any sex, ride a motorcycle without a helmet, carry concealed weapons, or fly the flag.

In short, Kevorkian, who usually voted Libertarian when he voted at all, is now more concerned with personal freedom than with assisted suicide.

—JACK LESSENBERY

*The Toledo Blade*  
July 22, 2005

### ■ War on darkness

President Bush is on a five-week vacation. From what? Before he went on vacation, President Bush signed a bill that will extend daylight savings another month. He said it proves we're winning the war on darkness.

—DAVID LETTERMAN

*The Late Show*  
August 12, 2005

### ■ Energy bill

So what are we to make of the 1,725-page, \$14.6 billion-dollar energy bill now racing toward the president's desk?

In the main, the legislation is devoted to production subsidies, tax preferences, research and development projects, and production mandates for a dizzying array of energy fuels, technologies, and industrial sectors.

It is built upon the assumption that investors in energy markets are underfunding worthy projects; that politicians have superior insights into these matters; and that the best remedy is to rig the market so that political preferences win out over market preferences.

Recall that politicians once claimed that nuclear power would be "too cheap to meter" and lavished subsidies upon it.

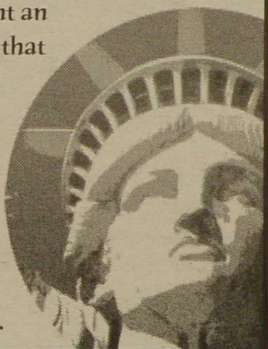
They then asserted that synthetic oil was the wave of the future, and over \$80 billion was subsequently flushed down a black hole known as the Synthetic Fuels Corporation.

"Soft power" — solar, wind, geothermal, etc. — was said back in the

**"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](mailto:treasurer@LP.org), and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.





1970s to be the wave of the future and the likely source of at least 30 percent of our electricity by 2000. We lavished subsidy upon those technologies as well, but today they provide less than 1 percent of our electricity needs.

Other examples abound, but in short, there's nothing new about our current infatuation with hydrogen-powered fuel cells, "clean" coal or ethanol.

We've been here before, but we seem to have learned nothing from past journeys.

—JERRY TAYLOR  
Atlanta Journal-Constitution  
July 29, 2005

## ■ Charter schools

Twenty-seven KIPP charter middle schools, including one in the District, have posted "large and significant gains" beyond what is average for urban schools, according to a report by the Educational Policy Institute.

The Virginia Beach-based research organization, using data provided by the Knowledge Is Power Program, said 1,800 mostly low-income black and Hispanic fifth-graders showed gains significantly above average in reading, language and mathematics from 2003 to 2004.

It was the largest study so far of KIPP, which has 48 schools in the United States.

Some experts have cited KIPP, begun by two teachers in 1994, as an example of what disadvantaged students can achieve if given more time in smaller schools, as well as firm homework requirements and well-trained principals with the power to hire and fire teachers.

KIPP students are in school at least nine hours a day, compared with fewer than seven hours in regular public schools. Three weeks of summer school is mandatory.

—JAY MATHEWS  
The Washington Post  
August 11, 2005

## ■ Fiscal fitness

President Bush is the fittest president in history. They said it's because he spends a lot of time exercising. See, a lot of our previous presidents wasted that time reading.

—JAY LENO  
The Tonight Show  
August 3, 2005

## ■ Eminent domain

Alabama yesterday became the first state to enact new protections against local-government seizure of property allowed under a Supreme Court ruling that has triggered an explosive grass-roots counteroffensive across the country.

Republican Gov. Bob Riley signed a bill that was passed unanimously by a special session of the Alabama legislature, which would prohibit governments from using their eminent-domain authority to take privately owned properties for the purpose of turning them over to retail, industrial, office or residential

developers.

Calling the high court's June 23 ruling "misguided" and a "threat to all property owners," Mr. Riley said, "a property rights revolt is sweeping the nation, and Alabama is leading it."

Besides Alabama, legislation to ban or restrict the use of eminent domain for private development has been introduced in 16 states ... [and] legislators have announced plans to introduce eminent-domain bills in seven more states

—DONALD LAMBRO  
The Washington Times  
August 4, 2005

## ■ Supreme Court circus

In the unlikely event that President Bush decides to forgo a televised, 13-week "American Idol"-like talent contest to find the next Supreme Court justice, here are a few people he might consider:

■ Jean Valjean — Who better understands the true nature of the law than Jean Valjean, the central character of Victor Hugo's "Les Misérables" and a man who served 19 years of hard labor for stealing a measly loaf of bread? (We can guess his position on mandatory minimum sentences.) Remarkably, he

emerged from his ordeal filled with love, compassion, and a desire to help those in need — qualities we certainly want in our jurists.

■ TiVo — Imagine a Supreme Court justice with the ability to remember past cases verbatim, quickly synthesize new information, and make spot-on recommendations for future jurisprudence. That's why TiVo, America's favorite digital video recorder, would be a superb choice. And since 98 percent of TiVo users claim "I can't live without TiVo," Senate confirmation of this hugely popular nominee would be a breeze.

■ George W. Bush — Showing characteristic hubris, the president could simply appoint himself to the court. With his approval rating sinking faster than Tom Cruise's box office appeal, a self-appointment would pre-empt any further expansion of his lame-duck status. Sure, it would end the president's dream of becoming commissioner of baseball in 2009. But with the court in recess each year from early summer until October, Justice Bush could still attend plenty of games.

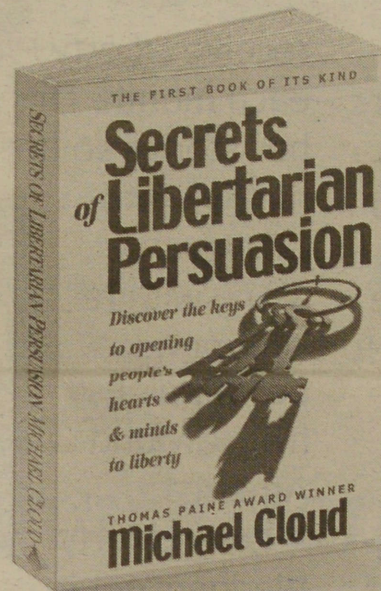
—BILL SHEIN  
The Berkshire (Mass.) Eagle  
July 6, 2005

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— George Whitfield  
(Executive search consultant)  
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# Ohio LP works to eliminate Cincinnati property tax

**L**ibertarians in Ohio are working with a coalition — Coalition Opposed to Additional Spending and Taxes — that is trying to amend the Cincinnati city charter to eliminate a large portion of the city's property tax.

If the coalition members can collect 13,000 signatures by the end of August, the question will be put to the voters in the November election

— and property taxes in Cincinnati could be a thing of the past, said Josh Weitzman, vice chair of the Ohio LP.

Cincinnati residents would still have to pay the property taxes collected by the county and school district, but city residents would save about 11 percent on their annual property tax bill, for a total city-wide savings of about \$28 million

per year.

This is the second attempt in two years to eliminate this portion of the property tax. The coalition managed to get the proposal on the ballot in November 2004, but it was defeated — with 51 percent of city residents voting against it.

State Rep. Tom Brinkman Jr., who leads the coalition, said he thinks the measure has a better

chance of being approved this year, because there are also mayoral and city council elections, which should draw more property owners out to the polls.

If approved, the measure would decrease Cincinnati's property tax by 10 percent per year for 10 years, and the tax would be abolished by 2016.

In the last election, the charter

amendment was heartily opposed by the city's fire and police unions and other city employees, who benefit from the tax collection.

Those who support the measure, however, say the warnings that city services will be severely impacted are exaggerated, and that if the city council exercises fiscal discipline, services won't have to be cut as much as feared.

## Texas LP pushes other candidates to follow laws

**T**he Texas Ethics Commission has fined the Austin Police Association's political action committee for not properly disclosing information about the PAC's contributors and for not following other requirements of the state's election code. The \$600 fine stemmed from complaints filed by Libertarian Wes Benedict, who ran for a city council seat in the May elections.

The PAC had endorsed one of Benedict's opponents, incumbent City Councilwoman Betty Dunkerly, who was re-elected.

Benedict, who is executive director of the Texas LP, told the *Austin American Statesman* newspaper that the commission's ruling validated his efforts to call attention to campaign finance issues.

According to the newspaper, Benedict has filed 15 complaints with the commission, in addition to other allegations that candidates violated city election rules.

"Once again, Libertarians have brought ... joy to the masses" who want the political game to be played without favor, said Austinite Rick McGinnis, an at-large representative to the Libertarian National Committee. "The City of Austin is discovering that the Libertarians are worth paying attention to."

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## THE PROFILE

# CEO T.J. Rodgers

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

**D**on't get Cypress Semiconductor Corp. CEO T.J. Rodgers started about Washington, D.C.

"Washington's a black hole," he says. "You send money into it. It burns half your money." On Capitol Hill's profligate spending, he says, "The budget deficit has to stop. It is the root of all evil." And on government subsidies to business, he says, "They throw mostly useless money at mostly bad projects."

That's tough talk, even from a high-tech executive — until you realize that Rodgers is a libertarian who carries a copy of the Bill of Rights in his briefcase and fervently believes that the free market can do almost everything better and cheaper than government.

In fact, Rodgers is one of Silicon Valley's highest-profile libertarians — and often uses that word to describe himself. Sometimes he uses it twice. "I'm a libertarian-libertarian," he said in a May 2001

interview on San Jose Public Television station KTEH, after the host suggested that Rodgers was a "conservative-libertarian." Rodgers continued, "There's some parts of what conservatives like that I like. For example, their like of a small government and no taxes. And with regard to liberals, I share some common ground with them. You know, be who you want to be, do what you want to do — and I believe in that." Rodgers returned to that theme in the *Dartmouth Review* (June 11, 2004) when he explained, "I deal with issues of freedom that transcend Left-Right politics."

Here are some of Rodgers' opinions on the issues:

■ On public schools: "They're

badly run and that's why they don't produce a good result. Because they're not accountable. Because they're monopolized by the government." — American Public Television's *Uncommon Knowledge* (August 17, 2000)

■ On deficit spending: "The budget deficit has to stop. It is the root of all evil. I heard a great quote the other day: 'We always hire Democratic congressmen who promise to give us from the government all the things we want. And we always hire Republican presidents to make sure we don't have to pay for it.' It's a great quote. It's exactly right." — *Reason* (July 1990)

■ On the morality of freedom: "The collectivism that big government espouses undermines capitalism and therefore the fundamental wealth-producing process of Silicon Valley. We must remember that free minds and free markets are the moral foundation that has made our success possible." — *Cato Institute Policy Report* (May/June 2000)

■ On pork-barrel politics: "Washington's a black hole. You send money into it. It burns half your money. And then, after burning half your money, the other half comes back in the form of political pork-barrel." — *The American Enterprise* (July-August 1997)

In his day job, Rodgers is the president and CEO of Cypress Semiconductor Corporation, which he founded in 1982. Cypress is now a billion-dollar company with more than 4,000 employees. The company manufactures 400 types of integrated circuits, including USB chips, static RAM modules, and microprocessor clocks.

In 2001, *Upside Magazine* named Rodgers one of the "100 People Who Changed Our World." That same year, he won the Silicon Valley Capitalism Award for "exemplifying the virtues of capitalism." In 2005, he was inducted into the Silicon Valley Engineering Council Hall of Fame.

On a personal level, Rodgers has shown himself eager to translate his libertarian belief in private charity into action. He has contributed computer facilities to economically disadvantaged student groups in Northern California; funded a student technology team from Broadway High School in San Jose; and spearheaded a corporate food drive for Santa Clara County's homeless (in 2004, Cypress employees donated 835,286 pounds of food to the Second Harvest Food Bank Corporate Food Bowl Challenge).

■ 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](http://www.TheAdvocates.org/celebrities.html).

# Former LNC Secretary Steve Givot completes transcontinental trek

**S**teve Givot, former secretary of the national Libertarian Party, recently completed a bicycle ride across America, from Seattle, Wash., to Washington, D.C. He joined 33 other individuals from around the nation on the ride, and 32 of them completed the journey.

Each rider raised at least \$5,500 for the American Lung Association of Washington State, with a minimum of 50 percent being dedicated to programs sponsored by the association.

The effort was a particularly impressive one for Givot: In April 2004, when he was serving on the LNC, he was hit while riding his bicycle in Chicago by a car that ran a stop sign.

He was seriously injured — including brain and neck injuries — and spent significant time in the neurological intensive care unit before having surgery to repair his neck in June, 2004.

"I wasn't ready to start rehab until November 2004, and I rode 3,000 miles in my training regimen, from Nov. 1 until I departed for Seattle in late June 2005," Givot said.

"During that time, riding to work (a 10-mile round trip) was a daily event except in the winter, and I rode all around Chicago for almost every errand, too. I also rode from



■ Former LNC Secretary Steve Givot holds his bicycle aloft in front of the Lincoln Memorial after completing a 3,380-mile ride across the United States to benefit the American Lung Association of Washington State.

Chicago to Wisconsin and back five times — at 100 miles per trip — to distance train.

"But northern Illinois is very flat, and the Big Ride was anything but flat."

During the 48-day ride across America, Givot covered 3,380 miles, logged a total climb of nearly 119,000 feet, and lost about 30 pounds.

At the end of the trek, Givot was given the "Red Lantern Award" by the other riders.

"The name comes from the Itidardog sled race in Alaska," he explained. "The last sledder across the finish line gets the award. I was slow but persistent — somewhat like the LP. Sometimes, persistence is what is needed to achieve a significant goal."

# Delaware LP official dies in plane crash

**J**im Conk, a stalwart member of the Libertarian Party of Delaware, was killed in a small plane crash in Pennsylvania on Aug. 13, along with two family members. A fourth passenger was seriously injured in the crash.

Conk had been a member of the Delaware LP for more than 25 years and had served for most of that time in various positions on the state executive committee, said Bill Morris, a representative of the state party. At the time of his death, Conk was serving both as treasurer of the state LP and as the Kent County LP representative.

Also killed in the crash were Conk's wife Susan and his brother-in-law, Dale Lewis. Jim Conk's sister, Terri Lewis, who is secretary of the

Delaware LP, was seriously injured.

According to newspaper reports, Jim Conk was flying the plane from upstate New York back home to Delaware when the accident occurred. He had told his father he intended to stop for gas at an airport in Erie, Pa., but the plane apparently ran out of fuel about a half-mile from the runway.

The coroner said both Jim and Susan Conk and Dale Lewis died instantly. Terri Lewis was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Jim and Susan Conk left behind seven children, ranging in age from four to 18 years old.

Bill Morris reported that Jim had served at various times over the years as secretary, treasurer, and chairman of the Delaware LP.

"Perhaps his greatest contribution came after our post-1980 letdown," Morris noted, alluding to frustration after the 1980 Ed Clark presidential campaign, in which Clark took almost a million votes.

"We fielded 19 Delaware candidates. However, we and others had unrealistic expectations of a much larger libertarian vote. There was a huge letdown, compounded by dissension within the Delaware Party. Jim stepped in and with great patience attended small state party meetings in New Castle County.

"With a restrained, non-confrontational approach, Jim eventually became state chair and guided the party to a more effective operation."

A trust fund has been established for Jim and Susan Conk's seven children. Anyone interested in contributing can send donations to: Conk's Children's Trust, c/o Pippin Funeral Home, 119 W. Camden-Wyoming Ave., Wyoming DE 19934-1117.

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# Utility takeover killed by Portland-area Libertarians

The proposed public takeover of an Enron-owned electric utility in Portland, Ore., has been rejected by Enron's bankruptcy trustees, thanks in part to activism by local Libertarians.

Portland General Electric is worth approximately \$2.65 billion, and city officials tried to purchase the utility — even threatening to use eminent domain proceedings in order to get their hands on the business.

In early July the Portland City Council unanimously approved an

ordinance authorizing the sale of \$3 billion in bonds to buy the utility.

So local Libertarians Frank Dane and Kurt Weber — respectively chairman and secretary of the Multnomah County LP — began passing around a petition to force the city either to ask the voters in a referendum whether the city should issue the bonds, or to simply repeal the ordinance.

According to a July 20 newspaper story, "it struck many observers as odd that the small, underfinanced Multnomah County Libertar-

ian Party emerged last week as the lead public player in a petition drive aimed at derailing Portland's bid to acquire Oregon's largest utility."

What's so odd about that?

Well, there were reportedly many other "powerful interests" who didn't want the city to purchase the utility, yet only the Libertarian Party was willing to step up and try to defeat the proposal.

Enron representatives — who need to sell off the utility to repay Enron's creditors as part of the corporation's bankruptcy pro-

ceedings — told city officials they would let them know by the end of July whether the city is considered a credible purchaser for the utility. Enron's alternate plan is to transfer ownership of the utility directly to creditors by establishing a publicly traded company and giving them stock.

They let the city know, all right, by backing out of talks with Portland city officials and making it known that they aren't interested in further discussion of the issue.

And when they told city officials

that there would be no deal, Enron officials pointed to the Libertarian Party's signature-collecting efforts as one reason they don't want the city to purchase the utility.

Libertarians who oppose the public takeover of the utility continue to collect signatures on their petition, however, expressing concerns that the city still has authorization to spend up to \$3 billion in bond revenue and pointing out that the city has threatened to use eminent domain proceedings to seize the utility.

## New LP affiliate forming in San Miguel County, CO

There are 42 registered Libertarian voters in San Miguel County, Colorado, which is where Libertarian Bill Masters is sheriff.

And they are getting together, organizing the San Miguel County LP — and getting ready to run more Libertarians in the November elections, according to a July 28 story in the *Telluride Daily Planet*.

While there are only 42 registered Libertarians in the county — out of 5,269 registered voters — there are already two elected Libertarians there. In addition to Masters, County Coroner Bob Dempsey is a Libertarian.

County LP Chair Marc Guttman told the *Daily Planet* reporter that it's sometimes hard to be a Libertarian because of the negative stereotypes.

But county voters certainly have a good representative of the LP in Masters, who has been sheriff since 1980. A long-time Libertarian, he ran for sheriff (and repeatedly won) as a Republican until 2002, when he decided to run on the Libertarian Party ticket, and won again.

If the new SMCLP decides to run more candidates for office later this year, the voters have only to look at the current elected Libertarians there when trying to decide whether Libertarians can effectively serve in public office.

The county party was just organized officially in January, and about a dozen people now attend regular meetings. Their ranks are sure to grow.

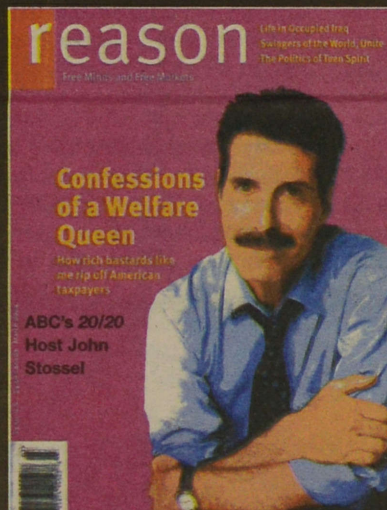
As Masters told the newspaper, "I think every American's a Libertarian. When you really look at the core values of our party, I would say that the vast majority of our public's going to be Libertarian — they just haven't realized it yet."



■ Bill Masters

"I believe the very heart and soul of conservatism is libertarianism."

— Ronald Reagan



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## THE REVIEW

### Anthem's inspiration

■ *We*, by Eugene Zamiatin. Published 1993 by Penguin [illustration is of an earlier edition]. 224 pages. Softcover. \$14. Available at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).

Reviewed by J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

Before 1984, before *Brave New World*, before *Anthem*, there was *We* — written by Eugene Zamiatin (sometimes spelled Yevgeny Zamyatin) as a reaction to living in Stalin's totalitarian Russia.

The book was written in 1923 and published in English in 1924, when it could not yet be published in Russian. A few years later a Russian version was introduced, and Zamiatin was persecuted for his transparent criticism of post-revolutionary Russia. Surprisingly, despite openly criticizing Stalin, the author was allowed to leave the country in 1931. He went to Paris, where he died in 1937.

Today, the book has been almost forgotten; most readers who are familiar with the other anti-totalitarian "fantasies" remain unaware of Zamiatin's work. But without *We*, the other books may never have been written. George Orwell's *1984*, which has much in common with Zamiatin's book, was inspired by *We*: Orwell wrote a review of Zamiatin's book in 1946 for London's *Tribune* — two years before *1984* was published. While Zamiatin will never reach Orwell's fame, he certainly deserves more attention than he has been given.

Unlike Orwell's book, *We* looks far into the future, to a time when mankind has survived a 200-year war. After the war, a wall had been erected around the city — the United State — to keep nature out and people in, and all in the city serve the desires of one known as the Well-Doer, a term that is peculiarly resonant now, given President George W. Bush's frequent references to enemies of the state as "evildoers."

The book is written in journal form by D-503, a mathematician who is chief builder of a spaceship called The Integral — which is being built to deliver the United State's culture to other planets. As in other anti-totalitarian novels, the world of *We* operates under a strictly ordered schedule. The story is told by a mathematician who relies heavily on mathematical and scientific metaphor, but the obsession with machinery and technology apparently pervades the entire society, not merely the mathematicians.

In this society, sexual relations are not forbidden, but they are regulated by the government. Any male "Number" (there are no names) can request a 30-minute tryst with any female "Number," or vice-versa. These are the only times that curtains are dropped over the literal glass walls of the apartment. Zamiatin apparently considered sexuality one of the most persistent human impulses; the anti-government activity in which D-503 becomes embroiled stems from his desire for a woman numbered I-330, a leader of the nascent revolution.

Though *We* is not a long book, it is a trying read. This is due — in varying degrees — to the style of writing, to the prolific use of metaphor and coined phrase, and to the gap in time between Zamiatin's writing and the present.

But most of the difficulty in reading *We* comes from the fact that D-503 — a dedicated "public servant" — vacillates wildly from rhapsodizing about the glories of the Well-Doer and the rational world in which they live, to wishing for time alone with I-330 and otherwise casting aside the rationality that is forced upon him by the government.

He suffers wild mood swings in mid-sentence while writing in his journal, which is written in stream-of-consciousness style. While this does make the story somewhat difficult to follow, it was no accident. Rather, Zamiatin effectively illustrates the impossibility of controlling thought, emotion and humanity through governmental means. Yes, the people in this world have the right to make choices — as long as their choices coincide with what the United State deems proper. Yes, they have the right to vote every year in the election of the Well-Doer — but Election Day is called "the Day of Unanimity." Yes, they are allowed to have personal interactions with other humans, but their exchanges are watched, catalogued and overseen by the government.

*We's* conclusion is a reminder of what happens when rationality and Reason itself are co-opted by the government. Optimism fails; authoritarianism coupled with efficiency prevails; all that is essential for difference, for creativity, is subjugated to the collective good.

As has been said many times, a truly efficient government is a libertarian's nightmare. In *We*, Zamiatin illustrates the destructive power of such efficiency. And what a nightmare it is.



## THE VOLUNTEER

### Winning Americans to the LP, one seat-mate at a time

A few weeks ago while I was flying from California to Washington D.C., I passed the time by talking to the person sitting beside me during each of two flights. Each time I was asked why I was traveling, and I responded that I was going to address a group of college-age interns about the failed and hopeless War on Drugs.

By James P. Gray

The topic soon broadened into the general issues of our world, and how the work of the federal government does not seem to be making things better.

One of my travel partners was a lady who was taking her son back to a summer camp in Missouri, and the other was a man from Texas who was involved in some "super secret" computer work on contract for the U.S. government.

However, both pretty much agreed with what I said about the failures of drug prohibition, and also with my assessments that our country seems to be more and more off the track.

When I informed them that I had left the Republican Party because I could not be a part of any group that supported the so-called PATRI-

OT Act, and so had become a member of the Libertarian Party, both of them said that they were fundamentally libertarians at heart.

Virtually every current issue that is on the public's mind is the Libertarian Party's issue!

Social Security; healthcare, including the FDA that hugely increases the cost and delays in getting new pharmaceuticals on the market; the welfare state, with subsidies not only to individuals, but also for big businesses (including tobacco); calling for competition in schools, reduced government spending and reduced size and intrusion of government: These are our issues!

So why are we not doing better in recruiting members to the LP? Why are we not a much greater force in determining which legislation gets passed, and which does not?

To some degree I believe we should forget about our (devoted and hard-working) federal and state LP officers and organizations, and instead take it upon ourselves individually to recruit more members.

No "hard sell" need be involved, or is even desired. Just bring up virtually any issue that comes to mind with the people you naturally come into contact with during the course of your day, and mention to them

that we have virtually no hope in making the situation better without a stronger Libertarian Party. And then suggest that they consider joining us.

The Republican and Democratic parties don't actually represent your friends, but we do! You will find out that it is easy to recruit, that it is both satisfying and effective.

By the time our planes landed, both of my short-term travel partners said that they would probably re-register with the LP.

They both agreed that the Republicans and Democrats are growing ever closer to each other in thought and deed; that both parties have been effective only in increasing the size, cost and intrusiveness of government; and that if we are going to bring responsibility and more local control back into our lives, it will have to be done by the Libertarian Party.

There is no reason in today's political climate that each one of us cannot become an effective recruiting engine for the LP. Bring some hope to your friends, and some positive results to our country.

We can do this.

■ **About the author:** Libertarian-James P. Gray is a Superior Court judge in Orange County, California.

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## THE FORUM

# Wal-Mart: Free to compete

In recent years, Wal-Mart has been a lightning rod for anti-business activists. The chain of discount stores remains under siege from impassioned political activists, intellectuals and unions who accuse it of exploiting workers, while some accuse it of wiping out smaller stores.

**By Robert Weissberg**

Thanks to these zealous crusaders, Wal-Mart spends tens of millions of dollars — none of which benefits consumers — to defend itself against dubious lawsuits and legislation designed to shutter or shackle it. California nearly banned Wal-Mart entirely, and various communities are mulling similar laws.

Does Wal-Mart warrant such hatred? Absolutely not!

Occasional legal transgressions by some of Wal-Mart's managers and employees are inevitable, given that the company has 1.2 million employees in more than 3,600 stores and must heed thousands of complicated legal strictures.

There is nothing reprehensible in the fact that Wal-Mart is non-union. Less than 13 percent of the U.S. workforce is unionized. Unions are free to try to organize Wal-Mart's stores: They do try, and they fail.

Wal-Mart is the world's largest retailer. But has its growth come at the expense of others?

Consider the accusation that Wal-Mart is wreaking havoc with small-town America. The plain-to-see truth is that the romanticized "Mom and Pop enterprises" were failing long before Wal-Mart arrived.

Savvy shoppers are familiar with T.J. Maxx, Marshall's, Big Lots, Costco and other deep discounters hawking inexpensive imports. OfficeMax, Toys-R-Us, Home Depot, Barnes and Noble, Best Buy, and other "category killers" have long tormented independent retailers.

And don't forget catalogue retailers, online shopping, the Home Shopping Network, street vendors, factory outlet malls, flea markets and even garage sales!

Wal-Mart cannot be blamed for the death of smaller stores. Wal-Mart is not some unstoppable bio-engineered monster. Other dreaded and seemingly unstoppable cost-cutters have come and gone. Let us not forget today's lackluster Sears, Montgomery Ward (long disappeared), K-Mart (merged into Sears), Grants (a distant memory), Woolworth (dead), A&P (almost defunct), and countless other merchants.

Wal-Mart is hardly unique or eternal; it is only momentarily better. Industry observers are already speculating that the more upscale Target may be the wave of the future.

What about Wal-Mart's alleged

stinginess, paying "near-starvation wages" with scant benefits? Paying the minimum wage is not a crime, and Wal-Mart employment is entirely voluntary. Wal-Mart haters should try shopping at Saks Fifth Avenue, where salespeople can earn \$100,000 annually, and see the difference it makes when they reach the check-out counter.

To insist that clerks and cashiers deserve executive-level compensation (or that all U.S. employees must be unionized) is naive and invites corporate suicide — no small matter to Wal-Mart employees with profit-sharing and pension plans. Working for a survivor, albeit with lower pay, outshines better wages paid by an employer tottering on

the brink of bankruptcy.

Finally, Wal-Mart's success is fair and square. Low prices do not depend on some secret formula. Its merchandise is commonplace and consumers can certainly buy it elsewhere. Nothing hinders copycats, nor is a huge capital investment required — Sam Walton started with a single store on a shoestring.

Everything in the Wal-Mart business plan is transparent — Sam's autobiography explains most of it. Or just visit a store. It hardly takes a CIA code-breaker to figure out that prices will be lower if manufacturers travel at their own expense to Bentonville, Ark., to hawk their wares

versus having paid buyers visit manufacturers.

Wal-Mart is not "unfair" or ruthless; it is just better than its rivals.

■ **About the author:** Robert Weissberg is a policy advisor to The Heartland Institute and emeritus professor of political science at the University of Illinois — Urbana-Champaign. The Heartland Institute receives no funding from Wal-Mart, although the Walton Family Foundation does contribute to Heartland's monthly School Reform News publication. Neither the company nor the foundation played any role in the preparation of this op-ed.

## PEIRCE LIBERTARIAN FOR GOVERNOR

### Economist, Dr. Bill Peirce Announces Candidacy for Ohio Governor; Race Hotly Contested

**Columbus, Ohio** - A tight race for Ohio Governor, has just tightened further, Case Western Reserve University Economist Bill Peirce has announced his intention to run.

Secretary of State Ken Blackwell (R) and Congressman Ted Strickland (D) are expected to evenly divide Ohio's voters.

Scandal and corruption, including a possible indictment for current Ohio Governor Bob Taft, have charged the political atmosphere.

The Peirce campaign will be a real factor in this race. The campaign's plan to raise \$100,000 for print, radio and television advertising by the end of 2005 has shaken the political establishment in Ohio. "We've already raised \$12,000 in just two weeks," notes Campaign Treasurer Bill Ferry, "but we'll need help from around the country to raise the level of awareness and defeat Blackwell and Strickland." Call 1-800-669-6542 for more info.

#### About Dr. Bill Peirce

William S. Peirce grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts, where his ancestor, Solomon Peirce, was wounded in the first battle of the American Revolution on April 19, 1775. The Peirce family has a long history of activism in the defense of liberty and opportunity in their community.

Bill Peirce is currently Professor Emeritus of Economics at Case Western Reserve University. He has taught there since 1966. He served as the Chair of the Economics Department at Case for six years. Peirce has published many articles and books, including:

- Bureaucratic Failure and Public Expenditure
- The Economics of the Energy Industries
- Technological Innovation and Ind. Leadership (with Bela Gold, Gerhard Rosegger, and Mark Perlman)

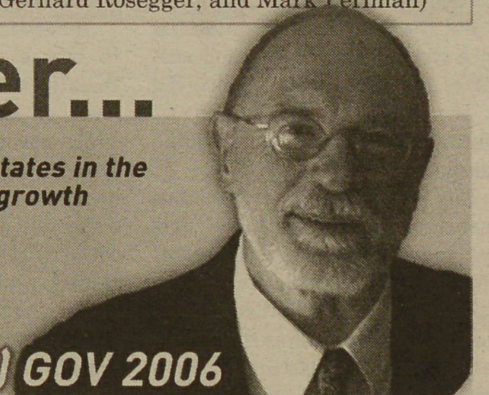
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# Ending the war on terrorism — and winning it

By Matthew Dailey

LIBERTARIAN PARTY POLICY ANALYST

Since the Cold War ended, America has ascended to be the world's only remaining superpower, its military and economic strength unchallenged — while the threat of communism has been replaced with the threat of terrorism.

The Bush administration has claimed the right to use preemptive military force against any foreign government accused of harboring terrorists or actively developing weapons of mass destruction. Countries all over the world are considered subject to U.S. sovereignty and military intervention.

However, Bush has been inconsistent in applying these rules for military engagement, and some regimes the U.S. government tolerated in the past are now viewed as unacceptable threats.

By announcing that the United States is in a global war on terrorism, the Bush administration has, in effect, extended the U.S. security perimeter globally, discouraging challengers to U.S. military superiority. While this policy may currently appear to be effective, it will have negative long-term consequences.

Bush's foreign policy — and the threat of U.S. military intervention — has created an informal empire, along with a host of enemies.

## Nation building

Following the terrorist attacks of September 2001, the Bush administration launched a military campaign in Afghanistan, designed as a retaliatory attack on those responsible for the attacks.

And that was a legitimate campaign: A strong nation should retaliate against those who attack it.

But the Bush administration has since strayed from its original mission of apprehending those involved in the attacks, transforming its military efforts into nation-building exercises.

This is a dramatic and dangerous departure from historical U.S. foreign policy traditions. This show of American military might, combined with a policy of preemptive strikes, could lead hostile states to develop weapons of mass destruction as a deterrent to the U.S., said G. John Ikenberry in a 2002 *Foreign Affairs* magazine article.

The Bush administration is misguided in its professed belief that increased intervention in other countries will reduce the threat of terrorism. By intervening in the affairs of other nations, and by imposing our form of government on them, we are simply creating new enemies by fueling resentment against the United States.

Rather than forcing other nations to embrace democracy or other manifestations of American political life, the United States should return to a foreign policy based on non-intervention and free trade, with American vital interests defined

narrowly.

The Libertarian Party does not, however, advocate an isolationist foreign policy that withdraws from the world completely. Instead of relying on military force and interventionism, we advocate a return to the use of the "soft" powers of diplomacy and economic strength.

## War on terrorism

In dealing with terrorism, the United States should ally only with countries that are willing to share intelligence and cooperate in counterterrorism operations. That doesn't mean we should get involved in every one of those countries' disputes. Where America's vital interests are not threatened, we must cede the resolution of regional disputes to that region's powers, which can more effectively resolve these disputes. We cannot — and should not attempt to — sustain our role as the world's police force.

The top priority of American foreign policy should be monitoring, intercepting and preventing terrorist threats — waging a smart and effective war against terrorism.

To this end, intelligence gathering must be strengthened. There should be a stronger emphasis on human intelligence by directing the CIA to hire more operatives who will monitor potential terrorist threats originating overseas.

The United States should also enter into security agreements with friendly countries, who will be asked to share intelligence and allow CIA operatives to perform counterterrorism activities in those countries.

Domestically, the FBI should be in charge of monitoring terrorist threats. There should be a greater level of intelligence sharing between government agencies such as the FBI and the CIA. Rules on intelligence sharing should be simplified to prevent bureaucratic delays, but with strict guidelines to prevent abuse.

As the Libertarian Party has noted repeatedly, there is immense room for abuse where intelligence sharing is concerned; intelligence that is shared between law enforcement and intelligence agencies must pertain strictly to terrorism cases and be used only for the purpose of preventing terrorist attacks.

An independent civil liberties board could effectively provide oversight, provided that the board has subpoena powers and is allowed to actually prevent civil liberties abuse on U.S. soil.

According to information that has become public recently, the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, were inadvertently permitted due to an information and intelligence-sharing problem in the U.S. government. Instead of protecting their information — through a misguided

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

sense of pride in ownership — the various intelligence agencies should quickly disseminate any credible intelligence on a potential terrorist attack, allowing local law enforcement agencies and, if necessary, the military, to increase their presence around a potential target area.

Terrorists whose bombing attacks failed have revealed dur-



ing interrogation that a large police presence around potential targets can prevent a potential attack.

But it's not enough to wait for operatives to gather intelligence; counterterrorism and covert operations will not be sufficient to significantly diminish terrorists' ability to spread violence and fear. Thus, the federal government should continue to search for and eliminate the sources of funding for proven terrorist groups.

Through proper use of the federal judicial system, the U.S. government should be able to freeze the assets (in U.S. territory) of known terrorists or organizations that pro-

vide financial support to terrorist groups. However, these organizations' assets must be seized only after a terrorist suspect has been formally charged and convicted.

The United States must not attempt to seize proven terrorists' assets overseas. Instead, the federal government should encourage other governments to seize terrorists' overseas assets and shut down organizations that act as financial conduits for terrorists.

## Bring the troops home

One of the primary causes of terrorist attacks on American troops and on U.S. soil is the United States' presence in nations around the world. An immediate step toward removing most terrorists' drive to attacking us would be to redeploy all U.S. troops — to bring them back to American soil.

Bringing them home will also allow active duty military personnel to be reduced, with the military branches moving toward a wider use of special forces as part of our more effective counterterrorism strategy.

In addition, the United States should withdraw from outdated alliances with other nations, as these have proven expensive, wasteful and unproductive.

Through many of these alliances, we have effectively subsidized the defense of other countries. These obsolete military alliances require funding that could be better used to pursue vital American interests.

For this reason, the Libertarian Party proposes a complete withdrawal from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), which was originally conceived to act as a deterrent to Soviet aggression.

As Ted Carpenter of the Cato Institute said in 1994's *Beyond NATO: Staying out of Europe's wars*, the alliance has expanded over the years, adding former Soviet bloc countries, in the process changing "from a defensive alliance to protect the territory of member states from attack into an alliance to project force — a different mission with a vastly different set of risks and obligations."

Americans once viewed the U.S.'s membership in NATO as necessary because the Soviet Union presented a plausible threat to national security. This threat has been dissolved; if the U.S. continues to participate in NATO, we will continue to be drawn into regional conflicts that do not support the national interest.

The removal of all U.S. troops from Europe would be the first stage in withdrawal from NATO. As our troops are removed, the federal government should close down all U.S. military bases in Europe and offer to sell the military equipment there to the European Union — which is well equipped to provide its own defense.

In fact, the E.U. is reportedly moving away from NATO and looking to create its own regional force. According to a November 2004 report in the *London Times*, the European Union in 2004 "agreed to create 12 European battle groups, each with 1,500 troops, as part of a long-term strategy to turn the E.U. from a trading block into a leading military power, with a common security and defense policy independent of NATO."

E.U. defense ministers also announced that the new force would be tasked primarily with peacekeeping and humanitarian duties, while also remaining available for maintaining security in emergencies.

Thus, the United States can withdraw troops from European bases without endangering national security. The threats posed to Europe are no longer aggressive world powers like the Soviet Union, but terrorists carrying out violent acts among the civilian population — as seen with the recent London bombings — and the terrorist threat in Europe can be effectively dealt with by European forces.

By withdrawing from NATO, the United States will have greater flexibility in dealing with terrorist threats and will not be diverting valuable resources to an outdated military alliance.

## Cost savings

Removing the United States from NATO will create significant cost savings for the American taxpayer because we are currently a major contributor to the transatlantic alliance.

According to an April 18 report in the *International Herald Tribune*, the United States contributed an estimated \$55 million to NATO's estimated \$167 million civil budget for fiscal 2005, and also contributes about 23 percent of NATO's total \$1 billion annual budget, excluding the cost of missions.

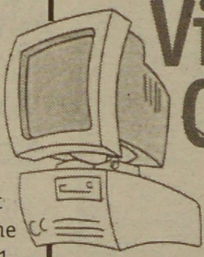
## Withdrawal from Asia

All U.S. troops stationed in Asia should also be withdrawn and redeployed to bases within the United States, which would necessitate passing legislation revoking the 1960 Treaty of Mutual Cooperation, which requires the United States to protect Japan and provides for the permanent stationing of U.S. troops there. Under the terms of the treaty, the United States must give a one year notice before revoking the treaty.

After that time expires, a gradual withdrawal of all American troops would begin and be completed within four years. This will allow Japan sufficient time to build up their own military and amend their constitution to legally permit a fully functioning military. A four-year withdrawal will also decrease the risk of alarming China, thus maintaining stability in the region.

Like Europe, Japan does not face any immediate threats and should be responsible for providing its own

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defense. To counter the possibility of an aggressive China, other nations in the region — Japan, Taiwan and South Korea — could align together to balance against the rising power, Ivan Eland of the Independent Institute said in his 2004 book *The Empire Has No Clothes: U.S. Foreign Policy Exposed*.

“Despite spending only 1 percent of its massive economy on defense, Japan already has the most capable military forces of any East Asian nation,” Eland added.

U.S. troops could also safely withdraw from South Korea and other Asian countries. As a major economic power, South Korea has a gross domestic product (GDP) 40 times larger than North Korea, and currently spends only 2.8 percent of its GDP on defense. Despite this, South Korea maintains a military force of 686,000 — superior to that of North Korea.

North Korea feels threatened by the continuing American expansion in the region; withdrawing U.S. forces from the Korean peninsula could help reduce tensions between North Korea and South Korea.

#### Other U.S. troops

Troops stationed in countries in the Western Hemisphere should immediately be redeployed to bases in the United States. There is no im-

mediate threat to the United States in the Western Hemisphere. According to the Department of Defense, as of Dec. 31, 2004, American troops stationed abroad in the Western Hemisphere totaled 1,861.

There is no reason the United States should have troops stationed in South and Central American countries, the Caribbean islands or Canada; they should be responsible for defending themselves.

Taxpayers will save millions of dollars each year with the discontinuation of these unnecessary deployments. Troop withdrawal from South and Central America should improve relations with countries like Venezuela, which have accused the United States of imperialism.

All U.S. troops should also be withdrawn immediately from sub-Saharan Africa. This troop presence is small, totaling only 584, and is unnecessary.

Sub-Saharan Africa has long been rife with civil wars and the process of building long-term stability in the region must begin internally. There is no reason for the United States to be present to provide stability, as evidence exists that African nations are taking a more active role in promoting security and stability within the continent.

An African Union has recently been formed to help resolve con-

flicts between African nations and has made progress in creating an African intervention force, further negating the need for a U.S. military presence. This force is expected to be deployed by June 2006.

Finally, and potentially most importantly in the war on terrorism, the United States must begin withdrawing all troops from the Middle East, with a specified timetable for the withdrawal. The presence of American troops in the region is contributing to general instability there, while simultaneously fueling hatred of America.

The United States has recently undertaken two nation-building efforts in the Middle East: Iraq and Afghanistan. American military forces have become bogged down in these countries fighting insurgents, foreign terrorists and the remnants of the Taliban.

We must make it clear to all Middle Eastern governments that they should not expect the United States to provide a security blanket for the entire Middle East.

#### Fighting terrorism at home

Maintaining a technologically superior military is vital to national security. Withdrawal of troops from overseas bases will allow the military to significantly reduce the strain on U.S. forces while reducing

costs and maintaining technological superiority. By ending military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the United States will save hundreds of billions of dollars per year.

This will enable the Department of Defense to focus on actual defense of American territory as the military's most important goal.

The definition of vital interests should be defined very narrowly, to prevent the United States from being overextended in unnecessary conflicts. A strong military will help to deter potential threats.

Technological superiority is a necessary component of a strong military. A military with advanced technologies can conduct operations in small mobile units as part of network-centric warfare, thus reducing the need for a large-scale fighting force. When all U.S. military forces are back on U.S. soil, the number of active-duty personnel can be reduced without sacrificing fighting effectiveness.

A large portion of our defense budget is currently spent on maintaining forces overseas. The current \$400 billion defense budget could easily be cut in half, and it would still be possible to maintain a well-paid, technologically advanced, all-volunteer military to protect the territorial integrity of the United States.

#### Winning the war

This strategy will allow the war on terrorism to be won — not in a matter of months, but in the long term.

Contrary to President George W. Bush's statements, terrorist organizations do not wage war against us because of our ideals, but because of the United States' unnecessary military intervention.

We need to return to the standard referred to by then-President John Quincy Adams, who declared that “wherever the standard of freedom and independence has been unfurled, there will America's heart, her benedictions, and her prayers be. But she goes not abroad in search of monsters to destroy.”

America's military resources have been overextended, with bases staffed and maintained in far-flung corners of the world. In “going abroad in search of monsters to destroy,” the U.S. military has strayed too far from its original mission of protecting American territory.

American troops must be brought home.

This plan will reduce the overall size of the military while increasing the military's ability to protect U.S. territory — and simultaneously maintain technological superiority to avoid compromising national security.

# — Libertarian Party Material Sales Center —

## 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

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

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

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■ **Vote Libertarian**

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything**

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■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Four-color. **Cost:** Sample for 50 cents, or \$10 for 100.

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 \_\_\_\_\_ Libertarianism In One Lesson

### ■ Buttons

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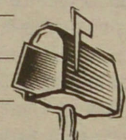
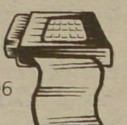
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## THE CHAIR

# The LP's Great Divide

I write to you today on the other side of a great divide for our party and our movement.

"What divide?" you may ask.

The membership versus activism divide, that's what.

At its most recent quarterly meeting the Libertarian National Committee took a bold step forward by breaking with the membership model of managing our activities. This step is intended to reform the national LP and to reorient the relationship between the national party and its affiliates.

Effective Jan. 1, 2006, all paid memberships in the LP will be converted to subscriptions to *LP News* and will be fulfilled through the current expiration date. After that date anyone who has ever signed the pledge will be considered a member of the national Libertarian Party, regardless of their contribution or subscription status.

For nearly 35 years the primary function of the party has been the counting, selling and managing of memberships. The activities of data entry, of membership solicitation, and of member support crowded out all other activities in our national office.

When our candidates and activists asked for support they were told we were busy buying and selling membership lists and creating the next great pitch.

In the bold new world, the national office will focus on raising money and performing services for affiliates and candidates. This is beginning immediately with training initiatives for state leaders and will continue later this year with several very exciting initiatives intended to provide broad-based activist training.

At the same time there will be a radical change in the relationship between the national and state organizations. For many years most states have been funded by the national LP. These payments, referred to as UMP (Unified Membership Program) have provided significant base-level funding for state parties. With the end of the national

membership this program will also come to an end.

Over the coming year, state parties who were part of the UMP will see their funding via this source decline. States are hard at work to determine their reactions to this program. Some are instituting their own membership programs, while others are forging ahead in a purely contribution-based system.

Those who see this change as a radical step would be advised to review the recent past. In 2001 the LNC embarked on a strategic planning initiative. This process resulted in a voluminous series of recommendations, some for the national party and others for various layers of our national presence. Six primary goals were identified, one of which was to "increase the LP's support base (members, contributors, and volunteer activists)." But since this plan was presented and accepted more than three years ago, what has the national office done to grow contributors or volunteer activists?

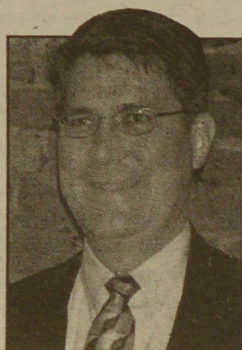
This goal was supported by specific direction to increase the numbers of individuals comprising these three categories of support, and to increase the level of commitment from those who were already defined as members, contributors and volunteer activists. Unfortunately, your national party has remained primarily focused upon memberships and their administration.

The LNC's action of Aug. 6 was a clear direction that this should change. Within the weeks since this decision was made there has been a flurry of activity from the national staff, as Shane Cory and his team have begun developing strategies to address two significant areas.

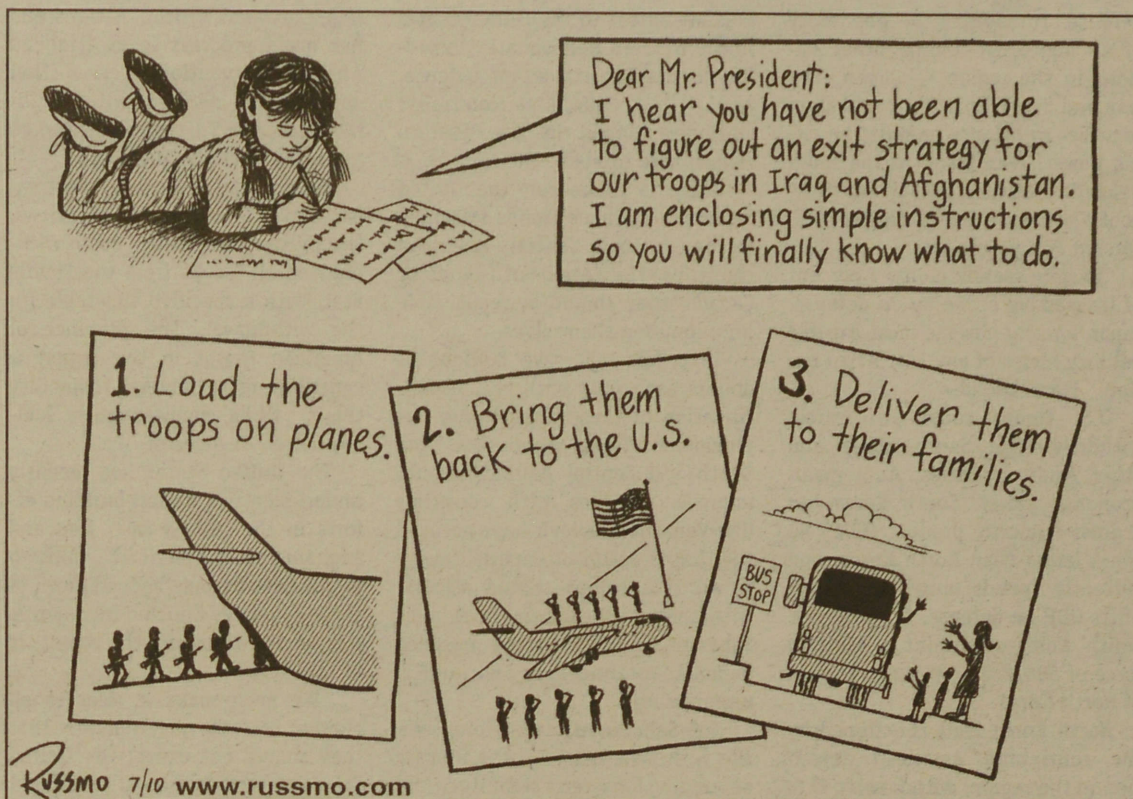
First, how are we to fund the national office without the regular revenue that memberships provided? You will see more about this in your mail box. But to make it brief, we still need your support and we are counting on you to fund the projects that we will pursue to the largest amount that you can.

Second, what exciting new projects should be pursued to energize and grow our field force of political activists and candidates? This will take the form of face-to-face training and seminars, as well as some exciting uses of technology.

As always, we are open to your suggestions. If you have been involved in a best practice somewhere, inside the LP or in another organization, we would love to hear about it. As you see the new training and involvement opportunities I hope you will join in and participate. And finally, I hope you will join me in welcoming all of our members, contributors and volunteers — equally — as workers in our efforts "to move public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party which elects Libertarians to public office."



**By Michael Dixon**  
NATIONAL CHAIRMAN



## THE MAILBOX

### ■ Quest for power

While I would love to see the reality of Mr. Bast's predictions of a Libertarian president in 2016, I cannot share his optimism. The primary flaw in his thesis lies in the prediction that both major parties will soon split over ideological battles within, creating a four or five party system.

This could possibly happen were the goals of those in leadership of the two parties ideological.

The fallacy here is that, while passionate concern for causes may exist in the parties at the grassroots level, those in charge are only interested in power. They will acquiesce only to decisions that will increase their own chances of holding on to current positions of power and those that promise the acquisition of more.

Whatever ideological sacrifices must be made to this quest for power will be made by both parties, as we've seen in the past.

The biggest portion of the supporters of each party will continue to be wooed and cajoled into believing that everything is as it should be — as they always have been.

As Hitler said, "What luck for rulers that men don't think."

—BILL SHAW  
Ball, Louisiana

### ■ Medical marijuana

I would like to respond to the letter written by J. Mills of Tacoma, Washington concerning the recent decision of the Supreme Court on medical marijuana. His statement that the decision was technically correct is wrong!

Congress was not delegated vast powers by the constitution and indeed the commerce clause was

about regulating commerce amongst the several states, not to ban activity, but to make sure it was uniform and fair.

In addition, nowhere in the Constitution does it say that they can regulate "intrastate commerce" (that economic activity solely within a given state).

As such, no economic activity took place at all concerning the case they (Supreme Court) were deciding,

**THERE IS NO CONFLICT**  
between having  
principles ... and  
working to achieve  
the best outcome in  
the real world.

—TIMOTHY HULBERT

as it pertained only to the growth and consumption of marijuana by a specific individual, who was arrested by the federal government.

This decision along with the recent "Eminent Domain" decision are two of the worst decisions to come out of the Supreme court in our country's history!

All those who think that the Constitution is a living, breathing document and judges are allowed to interpret for the times are forgetting one thing: That is what the "amendment process" is for! It is the amendment process that makes it a "living document," not the interpretation process or the re-interpretation process!

—DAVID IHDE  
Steamboat Springs, Colorado

### ■ Immigration platform

Finally! A Libertarian article on immigration that actually makes sense, ("Open or closed immigration: Clarifying the LP Platform", LP News, July).

Thank you, George Squyres, thank you.

—DON WACKER  
Issaquah, Washington

### ■ Arguing immigration

In "The Forum," George Squyres has not clarified the Libertarian position on immigration. The position he has described is an extreme, impractical position that few people would agree with, and which has nothing to do with the Libertarian position on immigration.

If I understand his reasoning, he believes that public land and public roads are incompatible with a libertarian society. This is not an accurate reflection of libertarian consensus.

Having crossed the Brownsville/Matamoros border many times, I am trying to envision my return to Connecticut by obtaining landowner permissions for each land parcel, bridge, and section of road for these 2,100 miles.

—MIKE STONE  
Danbury, Connecticut

### ■ PATRIOT Act

Just because the architects of that abomination had the audacity to name it the "PATRIOT Act" is no reason we have to go along with the fraud. I say we call it what it is: the Un-Patriot Act. Or better yet: "The Liberty Intrusion Edict." That's right: LIE.

—BENJAMIN WESTFRIED  
Plano, Texas



## THE MAILBOX

### ■ Choosing socialism

"Given an actual choice, would Americans choose socialism?" [*LP News*, August 2005]

No question, as millions of retirees voluntarily sign up for Socialist Insecurity, while three times as many FICA payers are forced to contribute to this scheme.

Giving away OPM (other people's money) is how politicians keep their jobs, knowing FICA tax receivers vote in greater numbers than FICA tax payers.

—HARRY THOMPSON  
Tucson, Arizona

### ■ Eminent domain

Once upon a time, citizens of the United States enjoyed private property rights. The Supreme Court decision *Kelo v. City of New London* ended these liberties. Liberties guaranteed by our Constitution are finally being taken away.

In Louisiana, legislation preceding this Supreme Court decision allows private property to be taken and transferred to another owner. Louisiana calls this "expropriation," which means to take without asking. Legislators are even proposing the taking of cemetery property.

Legislators need to reconsider the un-Christian taking of homes and churches, and the desecration of cemeteries, and stop coveting their neighbor's houses.

—JAMES MOORE  
Pitkin, Louisiana

### ■ Judged by the masses

I disagree with Patricia Michl's letter in the August **MailBox**. She said we should reduce the LP platform's 61 planks down to only

10, using generalized statements like "the LP supports the Bill of Rights."

That would not distinguish the LP from the Democrats and Republicans, who also say they support the Bill of Rights. But when you get down to the details of it, the truth comes out as to who really supports it, and who doesn't.

Our party principles are all based in ethics and fairness, always respecting others, and such honorable principles are not "landmines waiting to devastate our candidates" as she states. Someday the LP will be a major force, when the masses are ready to judge us not by our label, but by the content of our character.

—JERRY L. DIXON  
Santee, California

### ■ Money isn't enough

It was heartening to see a reminder in the party's recent Annual Report (*LP News*, April 2005) that the Libertarian Party is still not for sale. Above the report's state-by-state breakdown of LP membership numbers, it was noted that, "This chart includes both card-carrying members and 'subscribers' — those who contribute to the party but who have not become full members by signing the pledge."

The distinction may come as a surprise to some newcomers who — seeing many Libertarian leaders appearing to value money, "professionalism" and "success" more than volunteers, grassroots activism, and principles, and never having heard of the pledge — have mistakenly assumed that all one has to do to become an LP member is to simply send in \$25 a year or more.

But in fact it is true: Even do-

nating a new office building will not buy a vote in the Libertarian Party. Only your signature under the words "I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals" can make you a voting member.

And as long as this is true — as long as we proudly uphold the non-aggression principle as a condition of membership — there is hope that we can remain the Party of Principle and carry forward the banner of freedom.

—STARCHILD  
San Francisco, California

### ■ LP activity

I think it is well overdue what you said about the LP needing to get more active. I have been saying the Libertarian Party needs to get more proactive. I thank you and the rest of the staff for setting up the Iraqi exit strategy. Thirty years has been long enough for the LP to sit around and be a opinion forum than a political party.

The longer the LP does not get active, the more time the two-party system has to corrupt our government and stomp on our civil liberties even further. I am ready for the LP to get active. You can count on me to give out donations and get local and state candidates elected.

—JOSH ONDICH  
Buford, Georgia

### ■ 'Fair Tax'

No self-respecting Libertarian who takes the time to examine HR 2525 (the self-proclaimed "fair" tax) would support such a measure.

The supporters of this pathetic piece of legislation openly admit that it is designed to be revenue neutral, that is, it does nothing to reduce the size of government. Rather, it is mere smoke and mirrors

designed to distract the American people from the real issue, namely, the misapplication of our current income tax laws and the lie that is our fiat monetary system.

There is absolutely no constitutional authorization for a "sales tax." A sales tax is not an indirect tax as it cannot be avoided and therefore it would fall into the category of direct taxation, which must be apportioned according to representation. The "Fair Tax" as written would not be apportioned and would therefore be entirely un-constitutional.

—KEN EVANS  
Wilmington, Delaware

### ■ Karl Rove criticism

In a recent news item, the Libertarian Party says "It's Time for Rove to Go." The reason given was that it is believed by many that the White House outed an undercover CIA employee."

LP National Executive Director Joe Seehusen stated, "President Bush said that if any White House employee was responsible for the leak, they would be fired. We know now that Karl 'the Architect' Rove was a source of the leak. It's time for Bush to follow through with his promise by firing his deputy chief of staff."

Whatever happened to innocent until proven guilty? Are people supposed to lose their jobs on unsubstantiated, partisan accusation?

There are all sorts of reports from other media that Wilson's wife was not a covert agent. It is hard to unmask someone who is not masked. But let's pretend that Rove did expose an undercover CIA employee, why would Bush need to fire him? Rove would be behind bars.

—LOUIS MARX  
via e-mail from LP.org

[*Editor's note: When the CIA called for the investigation, they explained that it was because the cover of one of their agents had been blown.*]

### ■ Long-term growth

For a variety of reasons, it seems unlikely that a Libertarian will win

a major national election in the near future.

Many countries rule by coalition, giving minority parties influence in the "big picture" while supporting aspects of the minority party platform in return.

Perhaps, the aspect of trading support for the return of increasing national exposure of Libertarian principles might work to the long-term benefit of the Libertarian Party. After all, the news media would be forced to acknowledge the influence of the Libertarian Party/principles, something they are careful to avoid mentioning whenever possible (a few exceptions do not prove the rule.)

Considering the small number of "swing votes" that settled recent presidential elections, both major parties would gain by alliance with the Libertarian Party.

It's all well and good to bemoan any short term misgivings, but isn't it the long-term growth of the Libertarian Party that needs to be kept in view?

—MICHAEL A. HARTENBERG  
Richmond, Virginia

### ■ Unite Libertarians

It gave me great pleasure to read Mr. Cloud's editorial on the subject of the Iraq Exit Strategy and, really, the broader debate on Libertarian political action.

I wholeheartedly agree with Mr. Cloud. For 30 years the LP has spent a major portion of its time debating who's really a Libertarian and who is not. Despite the hard work of our activists, what do we have to show for it? Not much at all.

Before Americans can rally around the LP and its banner of liberty, the LP needs to establish itself as a political force by engaging in the political process. Let's not argue over to what degree a person — or even a proposal — is Libertarian, but let's welcome them as someone who looks in the same direction.

Only then can the LP unite Libertarians, not divide them, and move America in the direction of Liberty.

—STEPHEN BACH  
Riverton, New Jersey

### ■ Iraq Exit Plan

The August issue focuses much attention on the LP Exit Plan for Iraq. I agree that Libertarians have to enter the "real world" politically and that compromise may be necessary on that road. However, compromising on how quickly to achieve a goal is far different from compromising libertarian principles.

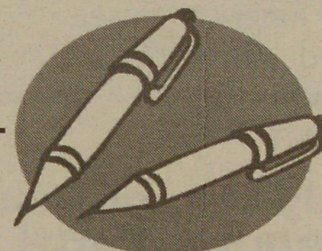
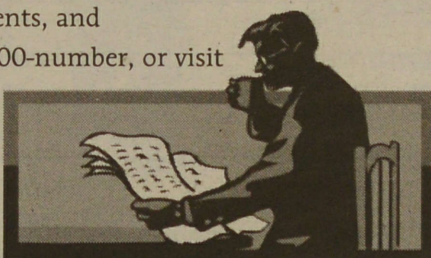
The plan starts off quite well, calling for withdrawal of U. S. troops, although at perhaps a slower rate than I would like. This is a good compromise, since it eventually achieves our goal of no troops in Iraq. The question is why Libertarians would advocate the transfer of those troops to other Middle East bases. Do we intend to send them back to Iraq and want to have them close by? Having any U.S. troops in the region causes a problem.

Indeed, it was U.S. troops in

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## THE MAILBOX

Saudi Arabia after Gulf War I that enraged and motivated Osama bin Laden and his cronies. A Libertarian plan would take the troops out of Iraq and bring them home.

The most amazing part of the plan would provide U.S. (taxpayer) aid to Iraq to the tune of \$150 billion per year. The odds of such aid ever ending is doubtful. After all, Egypt and Israel are still collecting billions per year since the Camp David Accords of 1978. You could say it's a compromise to spend \$150 billion a year instead of \$400 billion plus, but to me, it's way out of whack for Libertarians to advocate a massive welfare program like this. Such a plan makes sense in a political science theory, good government sort of way, but it's not a "libertarian" plan.

A withdrawal agreement with Iraq's new government that would grant property rights and economic liberty to the residents, as well as to foreign businesses, would be far more effective in promoting the necessary economic growth and development the Iraqis need and deserve.

Let's remember that Libertarians should be promoting non-intervention and the free market, not welfare for Iraqi bureaucrats. The exit plan, though well intended, gives the wrong impression of what we

believe.

—TED BROWN

San Gabriel, California

### ■ Get real. Stay real.

Let me be another Libertarian to applaud J. Daniel Cloud's well-thought-out and well-written editorial view in "It's time: Quit arguing and start working" (*LP News*, August 2005).

Further I applaud the Libertarian "Exit Plan for Iraq," articulated in the same issue. There is absolutely no conflict between having principles, being principled and working to achieve the best possible outcome in the real world. This is a good thing. This is a very positive step by and for Libertarians — not to mention our nation and liberty in general. Let's get real and stay real.

—TIMOTHY HULBERT

Charlottesville, Virginia

### ■ Dues increase?

I have been a member of the LP since I was 18 in 1992 and I have never been more optimistic about our future than I am now. I am encouraged by our leadership, which seems more moderate, pragmatic and realistic than in the past.

What causes me concern, however, is the upcoming dues increase.

At a time when we are finally showing growth in membership and are pushing to accelerate that growth, the dues increase will destroy whatever momentum we have built. For a great many people the extra \$25 will be the deciding factor in whether to join or renew. We have a hard enough time recruiting with dues as they currently are.

—TONY CORRENTI

West Islip, New York

*[Editor's note: This letter is printed as an example of several received recently at LP headquarters. However, as noted in a Page 1 story in this issue, the LNC more recently voted to reduce the dues for membership to ZERO.]*

### ■ Viability

It is impossible for the LP to speak for all members with one voice on the Iraq Exit Strategy, or any other policy for that matter. Some have complained that it does not meet the standards of our platform. Well, no exit strategy will meet those standards, since Libertarians would not be there in the first place.

Any individual member is free to write a letter to their local paper if they think they have a better idea, but undermining the national LP's release is counterproductive.

First of all, the LP is "offering a path toward ending the conflict in Iraq" — not merely promoting our

platform. Our platform is a utopian dream. I wholeheartedly believe in its principles, and it has worthy goals for which to strive, but it is not a realistic blueprint for accomplishing political change.

The art of politics is compromise. Does anyone seriously think that complete, immediate withdrawal of all troops and all aid (which is what our platform calls for) is a rational, feasible and acceptable policy? It is not only physically impossible, it is also a fantasy that the majority of voters, and most importantly Congress, would not support.

The point is, if we want to be considered a viable party we have to have viable policies.

—WILL TYLER WHITE

Okemos, Michigan

### ■ Iraq Exit Strategy

I am proud that members of the National LP staff seized leadership, time and effort to propose a withdrawal schedule from Iraq. As far as I know, it is a first among organized political parties in this country, whether standard issue or alternate parties.

It's not perfect, as *LP News* Editor Daniel Cloud pointed out, but it's being presented in a free market fashion so that Libertarians can discuss it.

Personally, as flawed as it may be, I think it offers an exit from a canard (weapons of mass destruction, etc.) that was offered as the

reason to go into Iraq in the first place. Does this proposal use statist means such as staying another year in Iraq, paying tax-supported reparations, etc.?

Well, guess what? As long as we proclaim our ultimate goal, we need to provide answers as to how to get from A to Z, and we cannot skip L-M-N-O-P along the way.

I'm proud to be associated with National LP staffers that are offering a proposal to get out of Iraq, and I'm convinced that it will be a standard for discussion and application as to how we can get our country out of the mess it's in.

—LORENZO GAZTANAGA

Baltimore, Maryland

### ■ Amendments

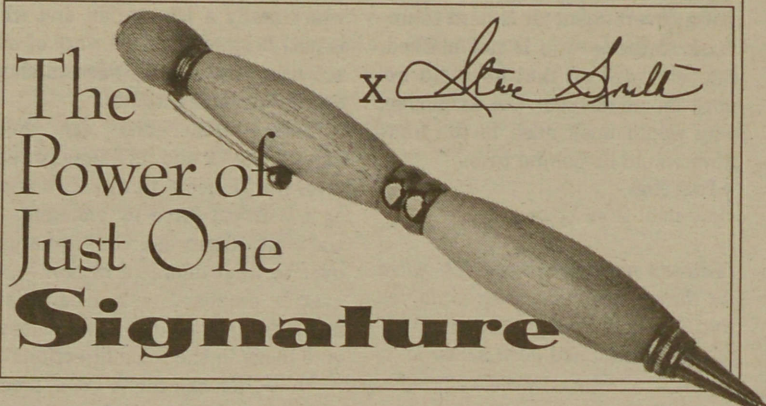
J. Mills contends that the Supreme Court was "probably correct as to the law" in upholding anti-marijuana laws. (August 2005 *LP News*.)

I disagree. There is absolutely no authority in the Constitution for Congress to prohibit drugs. That's why, in 1919 when Congress wanted to enact alcohol prohibition, it passed the 18th Amendment. However, there is no such amendment for prohibiting the use of marijuana.

And even if there were, it would be repugnant to a free nation, and it would have to be repealed just like the 18th Amendment was.

—TOM STAHL

Ellensburg, Washington



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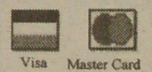
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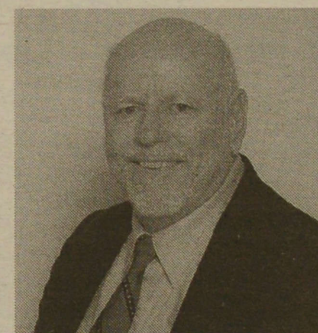
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## UPCOMING

### September 8, 2005

**Cato Institute Conference**, "Does private education work for the poor?" To include the screening of a documentary film exploring private schools in some of the poorest slums in Africa. Speakers to include Jim Thompson of USAID's Global Development Alliance, and a panel of private school proprietors from Africa and Asia. For more information, go to [www.cato.org](http://www.cato.org).

### September 9-11, 2005

**Louisiana LP Convention**, at Chicot State Park near Ville Platte, La. Keynote speaker will be Gary Nolan, radio personality and 2004 candidate for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination. For more information, go to [www.la.lp.org](http://www.la.lp.org).

### September 13, 2005

**The Heartland Institute's 21st Anniversary Benefit**, at the Hilton Chicago Hotel in downtown Chicago. Speakers to include Dr. Caroline Hoxby, professor of economics at Harvard University, and Dr. Jay Lehr, science director for The Heartland Institute. For more information, go to [www.heartland.org](http://www.heartland.org) or call (312) 377-4000.

### September 17, 2005

**"Human Betterment through Globalization,"** a Foundation for Economic Education presentation by 2002 Nobel Prize in Economics winner Dr. Vernon Smith of George Mason University. Event to be held at FEE headquarters in Irvington, N.Y. For more information, go to [www.FEE.org](http://www.FEE.org) or call (800) 960-4FEE.



■ Nolan



■ Smith

### September 16-18, 2005

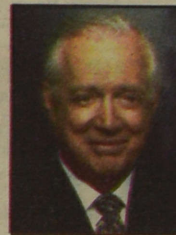
**Regional Campaign Training Weekend**, sponsored by the Texas LP, at the Radison Town Lake, in Austin. Campaign school conducted by the Leadership Institute. Other speakers to include Peggy Venable, Texas director of Americans for Prosperity; Penny Langford-Freeman, district political director for Rep. Ron Paul; and 2004 LP presidential candidate Michael Badnarik. For information, contact Nancy Neale at [torchess@austin.tx.com](mailto:torchess@austin.tx.com) or go to [www.LPTexas.org](http://www.LPTexas.org).

### September 29-October 1, 2005

**State Policy Network 13th Annual Meeting**, at the Mills House Hotel, Charleston, S.C. Focusing on current policy issues including health care policy reform, education reform and a fiscal policy forum. For information, go to [www.spn.org](http://www.spn.org); e-mail [info@spn.org](mailto:info@spn.org); or call (510) 965-9700.

### October 14-16, 2005

**The Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration**, at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Hotel, Atlanta, Ga. Speakers to include Hugh Downs, Robert Ringer, Harry Browne, David Bergland, Dr. Mary Ruwart and Ron Bailey. For more information, call (800) 932-1776; e-mail [anniversary@TheAdvocates.org](mailto:anniversary@TheAdvocates.org); or write to 213 South Erwin St., Cartersville GA 30120.



■ Downs

### November 4-6, 2005

**Reason's Dynamic Cities Conference**, at the Mirage, in Las Vegas, Nev. Speakers to include Drew Carey, Reason magazine editor-in-chief Nick Gillespie, Reason Foundation founder Bob Poole, columnist Jacob Sullum and others. For more information or to register, go to [www.reason.org/vegas](http://www.reason.org/vegas).

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## INSIDE

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■ **PAGE 4** Badnarik for Congress

■ **PAGE 14** Winning the War on Terror



## FIRSTWORD

"We're disheartened by political news from Raleigh that will affect few of us directly, but every voter indirectly.

"It seems the Libertarian Party's time in North Carolina is running out. And that's a shame.

"Libertarians could lose official status as a political party in North Carolina — meaning none of their candidates will be allowed to appear on the ballot in partisan elections — because they failed to get at least 10 percent of the votes cast in last year's gubernatorial and presidential races.

"Granted, only 13,000 North Carolinians are Libertarians. Some 2.5 million are registered as Democrats and 1.8 million as Republicans.

"But this newspaper has argued before that having choices are what elections are all about. And often the choice between the hand-picked or next-in-line candidate put forth by the Democrats or the GOP is a dissatisfying choice.

"Many Republicans and Democrats straddle fences in appealing to the masses. But Libertarians — who invest much faith in the individual rather than in government — tend to be politically belief-grounded and message-driven. In our experience Libertarians say what they mean and mean what they say.

"American politics need more candidates like that, not fewer."  
—The Daily Dispatch, HENDERSON, N.C., August 20, 2005