

Computer pioneer urges: Join the LP

Microsoft antitrust case is a preview of a "politicized" PC industry, he warns

computer revolution has urged the high-tech world to avoid opening the "Pandora's Box" of government regulation in the Microsoft antitrust case - and, instead, to "invest in a political startup" by joining the Libertarian Party.

Dan Fylstra, founder of VisiCorp and co-founder of BYTE magazine, sent an "Open Letter about the Politicization of the PC Industry" to more than 1,200 media outlets and computer forums in mid-May.

In it, he warned that the "impact of politics on our livelihoods is growing every day," and that the way to reverse that trend was to support a political party that understood "the wisdom of relying on the market, about the futility of central planning, [and] about the practical importance of liberty for innovation and growth" - in other words, the Libertarian Party.

"[I] fundamentally make the

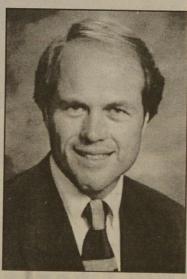
ne of the pioneers of the argument that it is in the hightech community's self-interest to embrace the Libertarian movement, and the Libertarian Party in particular," he said. "I'm not sure how many folks in the hightech community are ready for this message, but it is clearly higher today than it was even a short time ago," he said.

"Open Letter"

Fylstra's "Open Letter" attracted immediate attention, getting print coverage in PC Week magazine (circulation: 340,348), and earning him an invitation to Peter Weissbach's show on KVI-AM radio in Seattle, Washington.

"This is actually the first time I've ever stuck my neck out like this and commented on a controversial political issue," he said. "I was just hoping it would get noticed, but the response so far has exceeded my expecta-

> Fylstra has been involved in See COMPUTER PIONEER Page 15



■ Mayor Art Olivier: Working to make Bellflower, California "the most libertarian city in Los Angeles County."



■ Acting Mayor Dewayne Metheny: A voice against "the burden of high taxes and government regulations."

ranks, becoming more influential, and more respected in their communities," said LP National Director Ron Crickenberger. "This proves once again that lower offices are stepping stones to higher offices." In Bellflower, Olivier, a fouryear member of the City Council, won the support of the other

"It's a proud day for the Libertarian Party - our elected officials are moving up through the

four council members to earn the mayor's job. Despite the nonpartisan nature of the job, his election was described in local papers as a victory for the "Libertarian" office-holder.

Eliminated subsidy

He won despite the opposition of the Bellflower Chamber of Commerce, who opposed him because "I eliminated their annual \$35,000 subsidy," he said.

"It's exciting that Art Olivier has garnered so much respect that he's been elected mayor," said Juan Ros, the Executive Director of the California LP. "We're all proud of him, and we know he'll do an excellent job advancing the cause of liberty in Bellflower."

Since Olivier has been on the City Council, he said, he has been steadily chipping away at the size and cost of the city government.

His successes include "privatizing some detective ser-See TWO LIBERTARIANS Page 2

wo Libertarian Party memof the City Council. bers on opposite sides of the country have been "promoted" to the position of mayor — one via a city council vote, and one thanks to a fractious recall election.

Two Libertarians

become mayors

In California, Art Olivier was elected mayor of the city of Bellflower (population 63,000) on March 9th by a unanimous vote

And in Georgia, Dewayne Metheny became the acting mayor in Auburn (population 3,700) on May 12th when residents voted to recall the former mayor after a political brawl that made it all the way to the state supreme court. Metheny, the Mayor Pro-Tem at the time, moved into the top spot.

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"Libertarians for Privacy" team zooms up the charts

PAGE 3

LP meets with anti-Drug Prohibition party from Europe

PAGE 9

Rider wins 16% in San Diego campaign

Elder, Boortz, and McWilliams round out Convention '98 line-up

vocative and controversial talk show hosts and a bestselling crusader against victimless crimes — they're the latest additions to the line-up of speakers at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention.

Larry Elder of KABC radio in Los Angeles, Neal Boortz of WSB radio in Atlanta, and Peter McWilliams, author of the anti-"consensual crimes" manifesto

Business if You Do, are all scheduled to speak at the convention in Washington DC from July 2-5, 1998.

"We're proud to offer one of the most varied and impressive line-ups of speakers ever to grace an LP convention — with bigname guests who will be exciting, thought-provoking, and entertaining," said Kris Williams, convention organizer.

Leading the list of new addi-

tions is Larry Elder, an African American radio talk show host who has been a lightening rod of controversy in the black com-

Elder has been boycotted by southern California black leaders, who vociferously object to his anti-affirmative action, antitax, and anti-government handout approach to black empowerment. He's been called, by his

See CONVENTION SPEAKERS Page 10



■ Larry Elder: The KABC talk show host has been called an "Uncle Tom," a "coconut," and "the anti-Christ."

NEWSBRIEFS

Registered voters jump in San Diego

he number of registered Libertarians in San Diego County (California) is growing faster than any other political party - especially compared to the Republicans, who are in a

Since the first of the year, the number of registered LP voters has increased by 9.4%, according to figures compiled by Richard Rider, a local LP activist.

"The Libertarian Party is number one!" said Rider. "We feel that our voter registration growth reflects the activity of our candidates seeking registrations for their nomination petitions, plus the general level of activity of our party in local affairs."

Voter registration figures show that the LP's growth is running well ahead of other "third parties" like the Greens (5.4%), the Natural Law Party (-3.1%), and the Reform Party (-5.5%).

The LP is also growing faster than the Democrats (1.7%) and the Republican Party (-0.8%) — figures which Rider said showed the "stagnation of the Demopublican parties, a continuation of a trend dating back at least a decade."

Featherman wins major endorsement

Pennsylvania Libertarian Party candidate running in a special Congressional election was endorsed by the Philadelphia Inquirer — which "may be the first endorsement by a major metropolitan daily for one of our candidates at a Congressional level," said State Chair

John Featherman was described as an "intelligent, energetic ex-Democrat on the Liber- Iohn Feathtarian line" who would "bring a fresh voice and erman: "Intelindependent attitude" to Congress by the In- ligent [and] quirer (circulation: 420,000).

He won the newspaper's endorsement over rival Republican, Democratic, and Reform Party candidates in the May 19th special election to fill a House vacancy.

"Four years ago, the Philadelphia Inquirer's editorial board didn't even speak with Libertarian candidates," said Moir. "This year's endorsement of Featherman is a tribute to his hard work and solid candidacy and the growing acceptance of Libertarian Party candidates in the mainstream of politics."

Unfortunately, the Inquirer's endorsement didn't translate into a groundswell of votes: Featherman came in fourth, winning 3.2% of the vote.

However, he will try again in November and "will do better in the general election than he did in May," predicted Moir. "Obviously we need more than just endorsements to win. We need more than just the best candidates to win. But this was a major step for us in the right direction."

Featherman, 33, is the publisher of the Privacy Newsletter, a publication on consumers' privacy rights and technology.

Former Alaska legislator rejoins LP

ne of the pivotal figures in the history of the Alaska Libertarian Party has "returned to the fold," after taking a long detour through Republican politics.

Dick Randolph, former two-time elected Libertarian State Representative, has re-registered as a Libertarian after more than a dozen years as a Republican.

"This is quite the coup d'etat," said Karen Fincher, who, with husband Gary Fincher, is running the registration drive that prompted Randolph's change in party affiliation. If successful, the registration drive will earn the Alaska LP "major party" status for the first time since 1986.

Randolph, 62, is one of only three state legislators in LP history elected solely on the Libertarian ticket, winning election to the Alaska House in 1978 and again in 1980. He gave up his seat in 1982 to run unsuccessfully for governor as a Libertarian, before being wooed over to the GOP.

"I hope that Randolph's new action will spur others to register Libertarian," said Gary Fincher.



energetic."

vices, cutting expenses, easing up on regulations, and pulling out of the statist League of California Cities." In addition, the council voted to privatize its tree trimming operations, crossing guard operations, and building services — saving money "at a time when most other local gov-

Continued from Page 1

Fighting a "reverse Robin Hood bill"

"We fired the Los Angeles Building Department and replaced them with a competitively bidded private firm," he said. "And we've stopped all efforts to use eminent domain in Bellflower."

ernments in California were cry-

ing for more money," he said.

Olivier has accomplished this thanks to allies on the city council: An "anti-tax-and-regulation Republican [and] a fiscally conservative Democrat" which gives him "an honest majority on the council," he said.

Thanks to their efforts, "the residents of Bellflower can enjoy what is probably the most libertarian city in Los Angeles County," he said.

New Book! by Dr. Bob Sheckler \$17.95 + \$4.50 S&H

JUAN ROS:

Colorado LP member Ken Kirkmeyer testifies before the state's House Affairs Committee on March 16, urging a vote against SB-171, a bill that would force taxpayers to finance a

reminded the state legislators that only 1% of most voters' entertainment dollar is spent on

football stadium for the Denver Broncos. Libertarians called the bill a form of "reverse Robin Hood" that would take money from the poor and give it to the rich, and Kirkmeyer

Two Libertarians become mayors

professional sports. The "sports welfare" bill will now go to public vote.

"It's exciting that Art Olivier has garnered so much respect."

the former mayor, moving the Libertarian Mayor Pro-Tem into the town's highest office.

"Had I known the amount of controversy that I would become engaged in, I would have spared myself the grief and stayed home," joked Metheny. "It is still hard to believe that the uproar worked itself to the state supreme court. However, the job has proven anything but dull."

Tossed out

The former mayor was tossed out of office after he disbanded the town's police department. The recall effort took 13 months, Meanwhile, in Auburn, including a detour through the Metheny became mayor after a state supreme court, which ruled

Highway to Freedom

GOODPEOPLE Pubs 4024 Weiman Avenue Ridgecrest, CA 93555

Since his first campaign for the city council in 1995, Metheny has positioned himself as a "proven leader in the fight against government waste and corruption."

distinct the state of the party

His goal in the city council, he said, is to "slash government waste and work to eliminate frivolous spending of tax dollars," and to provide a voice against "the burden of high taxes and government regulations."

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LP encryption team charges forward in pro-privacy contest

he Libertarians for Privacy laws which restrict encryption team — which is working to crack an "uncrackable" code to highlight the dangers of the federal government's anti-encryption laws — is now the topranked political team in a nationwide contest.

More than 200 Libertarians have joined the team, which is donating spare computer cycles to attempt to crack a 64-bit encrypted message as part of a nationwide RC5-64 Challenge."

The surge in participants has moved the team to 40th place overall as of May 27, and into first place in the political team category, said organizer Hardy Macia.

By contrast, in late February

HARDY MACIA:

"However, why settle for that? We could win this contest!"

the Libertarians for Privacy team was in 742nd place overall and 20th in politics.

'We are edging ever closer to being in the Top 10 in the daily stats. Our best daily stat showing has been 12th," said Macia. "We are still accelerating, each week being better than before."

Tens of millions

The team has more than 400 computers working on the effort, and is cracking tens of millions of keys a day, said Macia, a Vermont Libertarian.

"However, why settle for that?" he said. "There are enough Libertarians out there with computers that we could win this contest!"

The Libertarians for Privacy team is part of a nationwide effort to prove that government

Political Correction

by Dr. Bob Sheckler 1 year subscription 52 issue intro - \$24.95 GOODPEOPLE Pubs 4024 Weiman Avenue Ridgecrest, CA 93555

programs to only 64-bits are a violation of free speech and a danger to Internet privacy.

The team is competing to be the first to crack the code and win a \$1,000 prize — an accomplishment that would make the LP a "status symbol" in the antiencryption effort, said Macia.

The RC5-64 Challenge is a voluntary effort of individual computer users, using computers linked by the Internet.

"The spare cycles of thousands of computers are being used to crack the message to show that the government must allow stronger encryption technology to be used — or else our data is at risk," said Macia.

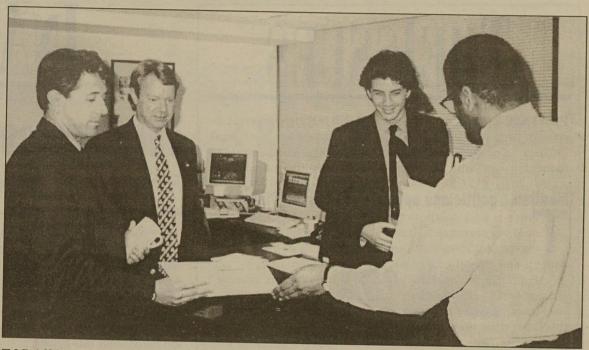
The code they're trying to crack — 64-bit encryption — has billions of possible mathematical combinations, only one of which is the proper key to unlock the code.

Crack a code

Even 64-bit encryption can be cracked, but it requires computers to crunch through all those billions of possible "keys." However, thousands of computers, working together, can fairly quickly crack a code that might take one computer 10,000 years to decode.

Macia organized the team, he said, because "I thought the RC5-64 Challenge might be a good place to show a libertarian presence on the web."

To join the Libertarians for Privacy team, contact Macia via e-mail at: vtlpRC5@catamount .com. Or visit his Web page at: http://homepages.together.net/ ~hardy/VTLP/rc5.html.



■ LP Affiliate Services Manager Dan Smith (right) hands Libertarian Party literature and coffee mugs to Transnational Radical Party members Marco Cappato (left) and Marc PerDuca (center right). LP National Director Ron Crickenberger said later that it was "heartening to meet people from across the globe who are working just as hard as we are to achieve more liberty."

LP meets with European party to discuss anti-prohibition strategy

epresentatives of the Libertarian Party met with mempers of an international political party — including a member of the European Parliament — to discuss ways the two groups could work together to end Drug Prohibition.

Four members of the European Transnational Radical Party [TRP] visited the LP's national headquarters in Washington DC on May 11th to "explore the possibility to carry out joint activities [such as] working on the international campaign against the United Nations' prohibitionist convention," a multi-nation anti-drug summit that took place in New York City in June.

Discuss strategy

LP National Director Ron Crickenberger, Director of Communications Bill Winter, and Affiliate Services Manager Dan Smith met with Giafranco

CRICKENBERGER:

"These are people who are willing to put their lives on the line."

Dell'Alba, a TRP official and member of the European Parliament, and three other party members, to compare notes about their respective political organizations, to discuss strategy, and find ways to work together on common goals.

"One area of strong agreement was in ending Drug Prohibition," said Crickenberger. "Since many aspects of the drug war now have international treaties complicating potential legal-

ization, this seemed a good area in which to forge some degree of alliance. We will be working with them on a joint anti-prohibitionist statement to deliver to the UN, as a first step."

After the meeting, Crickenberger said he was "impressed" with the TRP members.

"These are people who are willing to put their lives on the line for what they believe — with non-violent civil disobedience and public demonstrations," he said. "It was heartening to meet people from across the globe who are working just as hard as we are to achieve more liberty in our lifetime. I was very impressed with [their] dedication."

Anti-authoritarian

The TRP is a "transnational" party with members in more than a dozen European countries. It describes its politics as "nonviolent, libertarian, antiprohibitionist, anti-authoritarian, [and] anti-bureaucratic."

"I take it as another point in our professionalization that foreign political groups are asking to meet with us to exchange ideas on effective action," said Crickenberger.

North Carolina LP kills \$250 millio

defeat a tax-funded major league baseball stadium in Kernersville — saving taxpayers over \$250 million.

"Like George Bush, North Carolina taxpayers are saying 'No new taxes,' but unlike George Bush, they mean it," said High Point LP member Mike Smith.

Thanks to that anti-tax sentiment — fanned by some LP lobbying — the multi-million

espite being outspent 28 dollar "government giveaway to "nonsensical" ticket tax. to 1, Libertarians helped baseball team owners" failed "big time," said Smith, losing on May 5 by a 2-to-1 margin.

Sports welfare

Libertarians in Davidson and Guildford counties allied themselves with Citizens Against Sports Welfare — a group named for the "Libertarian label for this particular brand of corporate welfare" - and restaurant owners to fight the measure, which included a restaurant tax and a

'Several studies prove that taxpayer-funded sports stadiums do not add to the economic health of cities; all they do is hurt the local entertainment industry while driving up the players' million-dollar salaries," said

Although the tax hike was defeated, "rest assured that our state lawmakers will try to find another way to force taxpayers to subsidize other people's entertainment," he predicted.

LP Online Guide

Libertarian Party: http://www.lp.org/

Libertarian Party News: http://www.lp.org/lpn/

Libertarian Party Affiliates: http://www.lp.org/lp-aff.html

THEISSUES

EDITOR'S NOTE: Each month, "The Issues" will highlight several Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of all press releases issued by the LP, send a message to "announcerequest@lp.org" with the word "subscribe" in the subject line.

Insatiable politicians approve tax-funded Viagra

here is no Constitutional right to tax-subsidized sex so the government shouldn't spend millions of dollars of taxpayers' money to provide Viagra pills to Medicaid recipients and federal employees, says the Libertarian Party.

"Politicians are making whoopee with taxpayers' money," charged Ron Crickenberger, the party's national director. "When the Founding Fathers guaranteed the right to pursue happiness, this is not what they meant."

At least 10 states have decided to supply Viagra, the new wonder drug for impotence, to Medicaid recipients. In addition, the federal health insurance program — which covers millions of federal employees, including Congressmen — will subsidize the popular, \$10-a-pop pill.

'Politicians are insatiable: They can't say no to any excuse to spend more of our money," said Crickenberger. "They've managed to turn sex into another government entitlement program."

Since the FDA approved Viagra in March, Arkansas, Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Maryland, Montana, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia have decided to make the drug available to Medicaid recipients at taxpayer expense.

"For a good time, politicians like to dial 1-900-TREASURY and engage in an orgy of spending," charged Crickenberger. "However, when it comes to properly safeguarding taxpayers' money, politicians suffer from performance failure."

Court ruling will create a "vast wasteland"

he Supreme Court decision allowing public television stations to exclude third party candidates means that "only government-approved candidates will get access to government-controlled media," the Libertarian Party charged.

"Thanks to the Supreme Court, public television will remain a vast wasteland of Republican and Democratic politicians," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman.

The Supreme Court decision, Arkansas Educational Television Commission v. Forbes, will have a disproportionate impact on the LP, since it may run more candidates for office this year than all other "third parties" combined, noted Dasbach.

"Unfortunately for the millions of Americans who will vote for Libertarian Party candidates in 1998, the Supreme Court has just decided that your political beliefs don't count," he said. "The politicians will cheerfully take your money to fund their television network — but feel no obligation to present your political viewpoints."

In May, the Supreme Court ruled that public television stations can exclude third party and independent candidates deemed not "newsworthy" from televised debates.

"Like the old Pravda newspaper in the Soviet Union, the tendency for public TV will be to only disseminate governmentapproved political opinions," said Dasbach.

"Dirty Joke" grant is no laughing matter

\$107,000 federal grant for a college professor to study flatulence humor and anti-Jewish jokes is "no laughing matter," says the Libertarian Party.

"The joke is on taxpayers — and we don't think it is funny," said Steve Dasbach. "This grant shows that Washington DC has become a sick joke — and taxpayers are the punch line.

The \$107,000 grant was awarded to Robert Wyer, a professor at the University of Illinois, by the National Science Foundation (NSF). His research project: To learn why people are angered or amused by tasteless humor and dirty jokes.

In his study of tasteless jokes, Wyer pays college students to read jokes with ethnic or sexual themes to other students, and then record their reactions.

The National Science Foundation hands out more than \$3 billion a year in grants, and its proposed budget for 1999 includes a \$344 million increase — the largest ever in its history.

INAPPRECIATION

The Greatest President We Never Had

Reflections on the death of Barry Goldwater, GOP "libertarian"

By David Nolan

On May 29, former Arizona Senator and 1964 Republican candidate for president Barry Goldwater died. He was 89. In response, David Nolan, one of the founding members of the Libertarian Party, wrote this tribute.

arry Goldwater was the first and only Republican Presidential candidate I ever supported. In 1960, the Kennedy-Nixon match-up had moved me to concoct a button that said "Robert Heinlein for President"... but Goldwater was different.

I attended a Goldwater for President Rally in Washington, DC on the 4th of July, 1963, and was inspired to start a Students for Goldwater chapter at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology that September.

Within weeks, it had grown to become the largest organization of its kind in New England. (This was the heart of Kennedy territory!) Throughout the fall of '64 I campaigned tirelessly for Barry, wearing my AuH2O pin as a badge of honor.

Crashing defeat

He lost, of course. Big-time. Ganged up on by the East Coast "establishment" media and all but deserted by the big-name politicians in his own party, Goldwater went down to a crashing defeat in November.

He received only 38.5% of the popular vote and carried only six states, including his native Commentary

Arizona. Among major-party candidates, only George McGovern has fared worse in modern times.

But in a longer-term sense, Goldwater won. The "omnipotent government" ideology represented by Lyndon Johnson was already on its way to the trash bin of history. Its undoing began with the futile war in Vietnam, which led to riots in the streets at the Democratic national convention in '68 and the victory of Richard Nixon that same year.



that a President Goldwater would have heeded the words of General Douglas MacArthur, and would not have been drawn

(I firmly believe

into a land war in Asia.)

Nixon, alas, proved to be no better than Johnson. Lacking Goldwater's firm commitment to individualist principles, Nixon made no attempt to rein in the monster that government had become. He became the only President ever to impose wage and price controls in the absence of a declared war. His paranoid style — enemies lists, wiretaps, break-ins, fancy uniforms for White House guards — was more suited to a banana republic than to a free society.

And while the GOP has continued to drift ever-further from the principles of liberty, Barry Goldwater always stood firm.

Nanny-state schemes

Goldwater never hesitated to lock horns with those who saw government as the appropriate instrument for imposing their personal beliefs on others; his disdain for the Jerry Falwells of the world was every bit as sincere as his opposition to the nanny-state schemes of Teddy Kennedy and the socialist left.

(And in an odd bit of historic irony, it was Barry Goldwater who was chosen by his Republican colleagues in the Senate to go to Nixon in August, 1974 to urge him to resign the Presidency. This was 10 years, almost to the day, after Goldwater received the GOP nomination in

Today, Goldwater's spirit lives on in the political arena . . . but not in the Republican Party. In 1998, the party which represents Goldwater's ideals is the Libertarian Party, founded in 1971 as a reaction to what the GOP had become under Nixon and still remains today: The party of socially conservative big

If the Republican Party had remained true to the principles of Barry Goldwater, the Libertarian Party probably would not exist, because it would be unnec-

Barry Goldwater was my political hero . . . and the greatest President we never had.

Toledo Libertarians defeat stadium tax

hio Libertarians got "PIST" and staffed by Lucas and Wood at a proposed tax hike to pay for a sports stadium — and used their colorfully named lobto reject it at the polls.

On May 5th, residents of Lucas County rejected — 59% to 41% — a proposed \$35.4 million sales tax increase to build a stadium for the Toledo Mud Hens, a minor league baseball team.

The primary reason for the anti-tax vote: The People Incensed by the Stadium Tax (PIST), an organization formed county Libertarians, which was the major voice against the plan.

"The only opposition came bying group to convince voters from PIST, an organization put together by Libertarians," said Ralph Mullinger, a local LP member. "Lucas-Wood Libertarians have just hit the Big Time [in terms of political influence]."

> PIST won the battle despite being outspent 200-to-one by pro-tax supporters, according to the local newspaper.

But the group's explicitly Libertarian arguments — including PIST Chairman Dave Domanski's oft-quoted statement that "the function of government is not to build a stadium" — apparently resonated with voters, who overwhelmingly rejected the tax hike.

Legalism against faith.

Henry Boston is calling for a reexamination of the Drug Laws in the light of the Christian faith. Read Forsaken Fountain! \$7.+\$3. S&H. Candlestick Publishing, P.O. Box 39241, San Antonio, Texas 78218

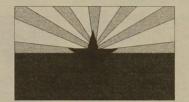


Why is

John Buttrick "Arizona's Designated Winner in 1998"?

-- Ron Crickenberger, LP National Director

And why should you support his campaign for the Arizona Legislature?



Here's what the mainstream Arizona media has already had to say about John Buttrick:

"The most intelligent candidate running... The most knowledgeable... The most articulate... The most innnovative... The most politically independent... The most level-headed... The most philosophically grounded... Achieved a moral victory... The type of accomplishment that neither the Republicans nor Democrats could match... The Libertarian did so well that no more debates were held." -- E.J. Montini, "Liberal" Arizona Republic columnist

"Bright and very articulate."

-- **Francie Noyes**, *Arizona Daily Star* (now the Republican Governor's press secretary)

"The big winner [of the debates]."

-- John Kolbe, "Conservative" Phoenix Gazette columnist

"John Buttrick was good -- very good."

-- Joel Nilsson, Arizona Republic columnist

"The engineer driving the gubernatorial debate... Offered the most intelligent ideas in the most effective way."

-- **Keven Willey**, "Moderate" *Arizona Republic* Editor of the Editorial Pages

"...particularly impressive with his knowledge of the issues and his well-reasoned and innovative proposals for change."
-- Arizona Republic (unsigned editorial), 1996

The Foundation is in Place

● Arizona is fertile ground for Libertarian ideas -- Harry Browne and Steve Forbes both had their best results in Arizona. ● Arizona has multi-member districts, which greatly alleviates the perception of the "wasted vote."

●Arizona's District 25 has weak incumbents, an almost equal number of Democrats and Republicans and over 10,000 Independents. ●District 25 is located in central Phoenix, which affords high-profile visibility; already the Buttrick campaign has 50 billboard-type signs in place. ●The campaign is well organized and has an attack plan unlike any other in the history of the Arizona Libertarian Party. ●Buttrick has picked the right issues. He will not only state consistent Libertarian philosophical positions, but he will also pinpoint particular issues (school choice, the drug war, ending the income tax and property taxes, crime and the Second Amendment.)

But there's more: •John Buttrick enjoys tremendous name recognition in Arizona; since participating in the statewide televised gubernatorial debates in 1994, John has become a popular talk radio guesthost. •John's run for governor sparked the ALP's voter registration growth (from 5000 in 1994 to over 18,000 by the end of 1995), giving the ALP continuing ballot status.

About John Buttrick

- Serves on the LP National Committee and is Interim Chair of the
 1998 Platform Committee
 - As the Libertarian candidate for Governor of Arizona in 1994, triumphed in statewide televised debates
- Vietnam veteran who graduated from Harvard Law School and has lived and worked as an attorney in Phoenix for 22 years
- Dedicated to proving that Libertarians can run effective local campaigns

Your contribution could make the crucial difference!

Buttrick

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California

Ventura County Libertarians have won a victory against Internet censorship, following a legal challenge against a county library which prohibited patrons from visiting "adult" World Wide Web sites.

In May, a judge overturned the library's policy of forcing adults to sign a form promising not to view sexual material before being allowed Internet access on library computers. The ruling also prevents the library from monitoring the sites.

"The library has no business determining what an adult can see, [because such] materials are protected by the Constitution,' said William Weilbacher, attorney for the Libertarian Party.

The library claimed that its only goal was to "protect kids," but Weilbacher noted that the settlement allows filtering software when minors are online.

The LP won a financial victory as well: The judge ordered the library to pay \$5,000 in legal costs to the plaintiffs.

Florida 🖿

Want more evidence that ballot access reform is needed? Just look at the fact that 18 of Florida's 23 Congressional districts will feature unopposed candidates in November, the state party pointed out in May.

"Democrats and Republicans have joined together to make it harder for other parties to get on the ballot in Florida than in any other state — then they don't even bother to run against each other," said Brian Collar, acting State Chair. "That's taking professional courtesy to new extremes."

Because these 18 races are already "decided," candidates' names won't even appear on the ballot, meaning that most voters will have a "choice" of exactly one candidate in 78% of Florida's Congressional races, noted Collar. Because of Florida's burdensome signature requirements, the LP wasn't able to get any Congressional candidates on the ballot this year.

The lack of competition-also undercuts the claim of Democrats and Republicans that too many candidates on the ballot



Mr. Ros goes to Washington

Juan Ros (left), the new Executive Director of the California Libertarian Party, meets with LP Affiliate Services Manager Dan Smith during a visit to the LP national headquarters in Washington, DC on May 20. Ros was appointed to the fulltime, paid position by the California party in April. His duties will include media outreach, local party development, fundraising, special events, and legislative lobbying. "I'm excited about working for the LP of California," said Ros.

will confuse voters, said Daniel in that their careers could be ad-Walker, an LP member who heads Floridians for Political

"If the two major parties with their millions of registered voters, ample money, and greater media visibility — can't field competing candidates under the current system, it's absurd to believe that minor parties would be able to flood the ballot and confuse voters," he said.

Hawaii

Former State Chair Dick Rowland is leading an effort to stop the "abuse of government power" by federal drug agents who are busy lobbying state and local officials to oppose drug law

A DEA agent attended an April 13 meeting of the Aiea Neighborhood Board in Honolulu, and persuaded the board to pass a resolution asking the state legislature to refrain from relaxing marijuana laws. Rowland is a member of that board.

The resolution passed 8-5 with the help of two board members who are also officers of the Honolulu Police Department.

But those two board members have a "conflict of interest versely affected by their vote," charged Rowland, adding that the board heard no testimony opposed to the resolution.

In response, Rowland has begun to research whether the agent's actions violated the Hatch Act, which forbids government employees from political lobbying. He also drafted a resolution, supported by three other board members, to reconsider the proposal at the next meeting after hearing testimony from a drug policy reform expert.

Mississippi

Libertarians helped organize a "Freedom Rally" for adults' rights — including the right to smoke marijuana — in front of the state Capitol building in Jackson on April 20.

"As long as an adult is not hurting anybody, what they do is their business alone," Bill Fausek, LP candidate for the 4th Congressional District, told the crowd. "We're here to show our support for the rights that are slowly being stripped away."

Libertarians lined up speakers for the rally and staffed an information booth. They also met with representatives from NORML and other groups to discuss using Mississippi's initiative law to push for marijuana legalization — a daunting task that would require nearly 100,000 signatures.

Missouri

Homeless people will be the target of a Libertarian candidate's 20,000-piece literature drop in August . . politically homeless people, that is.

Dean Hodge, an LP candidate for the Missouri House, is planning the innovative political strategy that will target middle-class homeowners in the 16th District and make them aware of the LP's "down-toearth" issues.

"Several days before the primary, a customized version of the Nolan chart will be placed in the homes of 20,000 middle-class voters" whose earnings exceed \$25,000, said Hodge. "The chart will be on a large postcard that can be mailed back to my election committee for more information" about the campaign and the Libertarian Party.

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Hodge predicted that the flyers could "find" at least 2,000 latent Libertarians, and he expects about 300 to actually join the Missouri LP.

Montana

If there's one thing politicians like more than a vote to increase taxes, it's multiple votes to increase taxes, say Montana Libertarians.

That's why Libertarians are endorsing the "Vote on Taxes Initiative," which would allow state citizens to vote on any proposed new tax or tax increases and says that once a tax increase proposal is defeated, it cannot be put back on the ballot until the next calender year.

"Politicians love spending our money," said State Chair Mike Fellows. "[But] the Montana Libertarian Party believes that people should be free to make their own choices."

LP members are circulating petitions to put the measure, which is sponsored by Montanans for Better Government, on the November ballot.

Fellows also issued an open invitation to Democrats and Republicans to support the measure, but predicts they'll "probably vote to keep the status quo instead."

New Jersey

State police officers and BATF agents are bursting into homes and terrorizing New Jersey families — so Libertarians are demanding an investigation.

In a letter to Governor Christine Todd Whitman, State Chair Janice Presser called on the governor to investigate the tactics used by law enforcement who she described as "bullies with the power of the state behind them" — in two recent "dynamic-entry" raids.

On April 22, police officers and BATF agents battered down the door and harassed the family of a man they charged with falsifying information on a firearms application. In another raid, police on an anti-drug mis-



sion pulled a naked 14-year-old girl from her bath while her parents begged them not to harm her. No drugs were found.

Beyond the fact that you and I are the leaders of our political parties, we are women, mothers, and citizens," Presser wrote to Whitman. "Where is the appropriate use of due process which protects all our families?"

Specifically, Presser demanded that Whitman explain why armed agents were being used to address paperwork violations, and requested to know the exact amount of taxpayers' money that was wasted on "raiding and destroying a citizen's home."

North Carolina

Electing Libertarians could save taxpayers billions of dollars — and State Chair Sean Haugh detailed exactly how when he unveiled his own list of state budget cuts at the May 2 state convention in Wilmington.

"It's amazing the things we're wasting our tax money on," said Haugh, who detailed 30 pages of programs Libertarians would slash from the state government's massive 23-pound, 7-volume annual budget.

"One powerful way to change public policy is through the budget," Haugh said. "We can effectively repeal a program simply by defunding it."

His top targets: Corporate welfare, such as subsidies for agriculture and tourism; eliminating the Department of Motor Vehicles; and wiping out the "corrupt" Alcohol Law Enforcement Agency, whose officers "use tax money to enjoy the services of prostitutes before arresting them.

With those budget cuts, "The state could easily do without many taxes," said Haugh.

Washington

The LP hopes to use a single issue — racial preferences — to knock enough Republicans out of the state Legislature to cost them the majority.

"The role of spoiler is not often aspired to by Libertarians." admitted State Chair Mary Maas. "But this year, issues and opportunities are properly aligned to actually pull it off for an entire state legislature."

That's why state Libertarians are organizing "Operation Fulcrum," which is designed to punish Republican "wafflers" who are responsible for the Legislature's failure to pass the Civil Rights Initiative. Statewide polls show overwhelming support from voters for the anti-preferences initiative.

Maas noted that most "wafflers" are in tight districts, where a Libertarian candidate

could cost them their seats by getting as little as 3% of the vote.

"Do that in enough districts, and we could topple the GOP from power," Maas said. "We could also position ourselves dramatically as the party of principle — in this case the principle of true equal rights — without winning a single race."

Washington

A Libertarian state leader is setting up an "independent, non-party" Political Action Committee to support LP candidates and statewide ballot initiatives.

Mike Hihn, the executive director of the state party, said the PAC "would have more flexibility and would attract a broader base of contributors" for the party.

"The net result of the PAC would be multiple and varied appeals to both libertarian and libertarian-leaning voters and contributors, like the older parties now enjoy," he said.

One possible use for any money that is raised: A statewide initiative in 2000 to require voter approval for all tax increases.

'Support could be combined for both the candidates and the presumably popular initiative, with the larger goal of increasing the popularity of Libertarian ideas," Hihn said.

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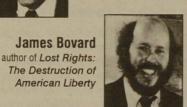
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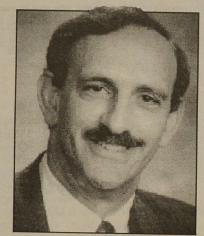
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Rider wins 16% in San Diego race for Tax Collector; misses run-off

ichard Rider won 16% of the Tvote in his aggressive campaign for San Diego County Treasurer & Tax Collector — a very credible result for a Libertarian, but not enough to catapult him into the run-off election in November.

Rider finished third in a field of six candidates in the June 2 election, coming in behind the incumbent city treasurer and the assistant county treasurer in the non-partisan race. He spent about \$30,000 on the race and won just over 57,000 votes.

"I didn't come nearly as close as hoped," Rider admitted after the election. "My biggest disappointment is for my supporters.



■ Richard Rider on his thirdplace finish: "My biggest disappointment is for my supporters. I thought I could do better for them."

I thought I could do better for them, and they are certainly disappointed."

However, on the positive side, he said, "We made a major impact in San Diego, running a professional race with great vis-

Rider said his less-then-expected vote total was the result of several factors.

"My feeling is that on such a down-ticket election, the voters vote on a very superficial basis," he said. "Few read the ballot statements, deciding on name recognition and, most important, ballot designation."

It was the "ballot designation" that really hurt him, he theorized, since the winning candidates were identified on the ballot as "City Treasurer" and "Assistant County Treasurer." By contrast, Rider was identified only as "Businessman/financial planner."

"That hurt the most, I think," he said. "I probably did well with people who follow politics, but we constantly forget how many people voting know very little about issues, politics or current events."

Technically oriented

Even if he had run a more vigorous campaign,"I'm quite convinced that nothing I could have done nor any reasonable amount of money I could have raised would have won that large an election for such a technically oriented office when people (this election) are so satisfied with the status quo," he said.

Now that the race is over, Rider said he has his eye on the

"Already I'm chomping at the bit to take on the massive new taxpayer subsidy for the baseball ballpark, a vote planned this November," he said. "Just remember, it is a marathon. We keep hammering 'em."

Rider, 52, is best known for his successful 1988 lawsuit against San Diego County, which overturned a \$1.5 billion sales tax. He also spearheaded the fight against a proposed \$66 million football stadium bond deal.

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Buoncristiano announces for LNC

ike Buoncristiano, the Political Director for the New Jersey LP, has announced that he is seeking an At-Large position on the Libertarian National Committee.

If elected, he said he would "bring balance to the many priorities that the LNC has" while focusing on "nurturing party growth at the

Buoncristiano, who spearheaded the ■ Mike Buon-Murray Sabrin for Governor campaign's cristiano: Will fundraising and public relations in 1997, said "balance the he decided to run because "several people have priorities." encouraged me to run after hearing me speak

out about what I thought the LNC should focus on. I decided that I should run because I feel strongly about national's role and know I can contribute toward it."

Specifically, he said the party should "do a better job at nurturing party growth at the grassroots. We need to help state and local groups more. Membership alone will not get us where we want to be. Nor will running presidential candidates. We must teach the grassroots how to win elections and how to increase membership, activate volunteers, and recruit candidates."

Other priorities, he said, include generating membership and support from members; running presidential candidates to help "keep us visible;" lobbying "amongst special interest groups;" public relations, and communications.

Buoncristiano said he would put less emphasis on increasing membership: "Membership is important but so are a lot of other things," he said. "We must manage the LNC to properly balance the priorities and focus on getting people elected."

Buoncristiano has an extensive LP resume: He was the organizer of the Hudson County LP and is a past member of the NJLP State Board & Steering Committee. This year, he is an LP candidate for Congress, and plans to run for City Council in 1999 — "an election I think I can win," he said.

Professionally, he works in the advertising industry, and has "over 20 years of experience in direct marketing in lists, database marketing, and creative [writing and design]."

Goushaw endorses Bergland for Chair

he David Bergland for National Chair campaign has won an endorsement from Barbara Goushaw, the founder of the Libertarian Campaign Managers Association of Michigan, who said that Bergland is needed "at the helm during this period of tremendous growth" in party membership.

"I want a future in which our national office is thoroughly professional," said Goushaw.

David Berg-"I want a future in which I can run campaigns land: Needed secure in the support of the national office. I "at the helm" want a future in which we solidly hold to our of the party. principled stands. I want a future in which our

party reaches new heights in membership, with members who know and understand what it means to be a Libertarian.

"I believe that the Libertarian Party is at a crossroads. The choice that faces the delegates at this convention will determine our future. I believe that David Bergland is the person to lead our party as National Chair," she said.

Goushaw also said that Bergland — the author of Libertarianism In One Lesson and America's Libertarian Heritage — has a "philosophical base and the ability to communicate principles in a way that our new members can understand and agree with," which is important because of the influx of new Libertarians.

Goushaw was the campaign manager for the Jon Coon for U.S. Senate campaign (1994), the Jon Coon for State Representative campaign (1996), and the winning Fred Collins for Berkley (MI) City Council campaign (1997).

For more information on the Bergland campaign, visit his web site at www.Libertarianism.com.



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Our new "Lights of Liberty" program gives award certificates, public recognition, prizes, discount coupons and more to all libertarians who accomplish any one of the following outreach goals in 1998:

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- 2) Operation Politically Homeless: Take part in three OPH booths during 1998.
- 3) Public speaking: Deliver three speeches to non-libertarian groups such as service clubs, classrooms, Toastmasters, political rallies, etc.



Harry Browne endorses "Lights of Liberty"

"I like the Advocates' 'Lights of Liberty' program . . . I feel strongly that we have to build name recognition for the words 'libertarian' and libertarianism' — by attaching the

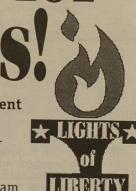
words publicly to specific proposals, analyses, and ideas. Lights of Liberty is an excellent way to further that goal."

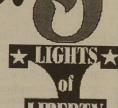
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CONVENTIONNEWS

Convention speaker list finalized

Continued from Page 1 own tally, an "Uncle Tom," a "coconut," and "the anti-Christ."

Despite the withering blast of criticism, Elder has stayed the course, and continues to argue that education, hard work, and freedom are the recipe for success for minorities.

Elder is a registered independent who calls himself a "fiscal conservative and a social liberal." Besides his daily program on KABC Radio, he has appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, Larry King Live, and 60 Minutes.

Also speaking will be Neal Boortz, who has been described as "the Big Mouth No. 1, the Alpha Male, the Big Kuhuna, the baddest of the bad" of Atlanta talk radio. He is the host of the #1 rated talk show on WSB-AM.

Boortz, a 25-year fixture on the Georgia airwaves, had long described himself as philosophically "libertarian," but didn't

Student & Delegate Convention '98

Packages Offered



■ Neal Boortz: He's "the Big Mouth No. 1, the Alpha Male, the Big Kuhuna, the baddest

Boortz was named one of the "25 Most Important Radio Talk Show Hosts in America" in the February 1995 issue of Talkers Magazine, and one of the "100 People in Georgia" by Georgia Trend magazine.

Rounding out the new speakers is Peter McWilliams, one of the nation's leading experts on victimless crimes.

A multi-million-copy-selling author, he's written two #1 New York Times bestsellers, but he's probably best known to Libertarians for Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do, a blistering attack on the immorality of arresting people for "consensual crimes.

McWilliams became a victim of victimless crime laws when his home was ransacked earlier this year by DEA agents, who were looking for the medical marijuana he uses to combat the nausea he suffers from treatment for cancer and AIDS.

A long time advocate of civil liberties, McWilliams said his passions are "personal freedom [and] individual expression"

of the bad" on WSB Radio. join the LP until 1996.

Convention bylaws changes considered

y popular request, the Convention organizers are offer-Ding a special \$99 Student Package to current college and high school students.

This package includes a Convention floor pass for all speakers and business sessions, Libertarian Victory Briefings, convention souvenir and program book, the First Step to Victory kickoff party, and Waco: Rules of Engagement tickets (while supplies last).

Proof of current enrollment required. Lodging and travel assistance not included

■ A basic Delegate Package is available for \$59 which includes Convention Hall Floor Pass and all Main Hall Speakers, exhibits, exhibitor presentations, and the convention souvenir portfolio bag. Does not include speakers/workshops that run concurrently with convention business

■ Other prices: Single-Day pass: \$49 per day. (Includes Convention Hall floor pass, Victory briefings, and access to the Exhibit Hall.)

■ Individual event tickets: Road to Victory Gala Honors & Awards Banquet ticket (\$100) and the Capitol Steps event (\$25). Prices good through June

To purchase Convention packages, call: (800) 722-5141 Online: http://www.lp.org/ conv/1998/register.html

rom a new formula for delegate allocation to a new Chief Executive Officer for the party, the LP Bylaws Committee is considering a number of far-reaching changes to the party's governing documents and many of those proposals will come up for a vote at the National Convention, reports committee chair David Bergland.

"Other than election of officers and a new LNC, the major business for the delegates at the 1998 National Convention is consideration of proposed amendments to the party Bylaws & Convention Rules," he said.

The committee is considering at least a half-dozen major changes, and more may be received before the convention, said Bergland.

Among the proposed Bylaws changes, and the rationale behind them:

■ Require the party's Presidential candidate or VP candidate to be a party member for one year immediately preceding the date of nomination.

Explanation: "In the past, several people appeared to seek

the party's presidential nomination," noted Bergland. "Our Convention should be for our party, not to provide a platform for opportunists who see it as a means to get their 15 minutes of fame on C-SPAN.'

■ Allow the party's Presidential nominee to choose his or her VP running mate, with the approval of the delegates.

Explanation: "The Vice-Presidential candidate should have the same issues, agenda, and priorities, and should be able to work comfortably with the Presidential candidate and campaign team," said Bergland.

■ Allow the Chair to appoint, with the consent of the National Committee, a chief executive officer to conduct the business of the party.

Explanation: "The Chair is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the party. As we have grown and professionalized, the demands on the Chair have increased," said Bergland. "We are beyond the point where we can ask a volunteer to put in the hours necessary to be an effec-

See BYLAWS CHANGES Page 12

Convention Highlights

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Grass Roots Campaigning Workshop

9:00-12:00 Bylaws Committee Meeting & Platform Committee Meeting 9:00-5:00 Credentials Committee Meeting

9:00-12:00 Libertarian Leadership Summit (State Chairs & LNC)

1:00-5:00 LNC Meeting

State Chairs Leadership Conference 1:00-5:00

"First Step to Victory" Party

■ THURSDAY, July 2, 1998

Call to Order Daniel Smith (LPDC Chair) "Welcome to the Belly of the Beast"

Steve Dasbach (National Chair)

10:00 Hon. Finlay Rothhaus (Selectman, Merrimack, NH) 10:15 Keynote Address: Michael Cloud: "Libertarians: The Unreasonable Alternative"

11:00 BUSINESS SESSION (to 12:00n)

Credentials Report, Agenda Approval, Treasurer's Report,

Platform Retention Vote, & Bylaws Committee Report and Debate

11:00 Workshop: "Communicating to Win: 12 Secrets Libertarians Can't Afford Not to Know," Sharon Harris (President, Advocates for Self-Gov.)

12:00 Lunch Break — Gold Luncheon: Charles Murray:

"The Eroding Legitimacy of the National Government"

2:00 Hon. Sandi Webb (City Councilwoman, Simi Valley, CA)

Tanya Metaksa (NRA Inst. for Legislative Action) "No Freedom, No Safety" 2:45 BUSINESS SESSION (to 4:45p)

Credentials Report, Bylaws Committee Report

2:45 Workshop: "Sustaining a Strong Campus Organization," Jim Lark

3:45 Panel: "Solving the Crisis in Education" 4:45

James Tobin (President, National Taxpayers United of Illinois) 4:55 Larry Elder (Radio Talk Show Host, Los Angeles, CA)

Capitol Steps — Musical Political Satire

Workshop: "Read All About It! Effective LP Newsletters," with Bill Winter

9:00 Hon. Bruce Van Buren (Mayor Pro Tempore — Avondale Estates, GA)

9:10 Michael Tanner: "Time to Retire Social Security"

BUSINESS SESSION (to 11:30) Credentials Report, Bylaws Committee Report, & Platform Committee Report

9:30 Panel: "Principles in Action — Stopping Big Government Boondoggles'

Workshop: "Mastering the Media," with Bill Winter 10:30

11:30 Hon. Fred Collins (City Councilman, Berkely, MI) 11:40 Barbara Goushaw: "Handguns are a Girl's Best Friend"

Lunch Break — Gold Luncheon with David Boaz

"Liberty vs Power - The Eternal Struggle"

2:05 Neal Boortz, Radio Talk Show Host, WSB (Atlanta, Georgia)

Jacob Hornberger: "Open Minds on Open Borders" 2:40 3:15 BUSINESS SESSION (to 4:45p)

Call to Order, Credentials Report, & Platform Committee Report

2:45 Workshop: "Using Campaigns to Build the Libertarian Party"

Jo Jorgensen: "A Vision for America"

4:55 Roy Innis (National Chairman, Congress of Racial Equality)

Special Film Presentation: "Waco: The Rules of Engagement"

After the film, producers Dan & Amy Gifford will be available for Q&A

■ SATURDAY, July 4 1998

Panel: "Principles and Public Policy"

Panelists: Robert Poole (President, Reason Foundation)

Mike Tanner (Dir. of Health & Welfare Studies, Cato)

Joe Bast (Heartland Institute)

9:00 Hon. Dewayne Matheney (Mayor, Auburn, GA)

Walker Chandler, J.D. (Attorney, Supreme Court Drug Testing Case)

"Being a Libertarian Medic in the War on Drugs" **BUSINESS SESSION** (to 11:30)

9:30 Credentials Report, Platform Committee Report

Workshop: "I Want to Win! How to Win Your Local Election" 9:30

With Hon. Fred Collins (City Councilman, Berkely, MI), Barbara Goushaw, Hon. Sandi Webb, Aaron Starr (Campaign Manager), Hon. Bruce Van Buren

(Mayor Pro-Tempore, Avondale Estates, GA), Ron Crickenberger John Buttrick, J.D.: "Why We Are Libertarians" 11:30

Shelley Davis (former IRS Historian, author of Unbridled Power)

"The IRS - How Do They Get Away With It?" Panel Discussion: "Local Problems — Libertarian Solutions"

Moderator: Robert Poole (Chairman, Reason Foundation) Panelists: Hon. Sandi Webb, Hon. Dewayne Matheney, Hon. Fred Collins,

Hon. Finlay Rothhaus, Hon. Robert DeBrosse (City Commissioner, OH)

2:00 Hon. Brian Thomas (Town Meeting Member, MA): "Inside Looking Out"

Peter McWilliams (best-selling author): "Born Again Libertarian" 2:10

BUSINESS SESSION (to 4:45p) 2:45 Credentials Report, LNC Officer Elections

Wallace Johnson, M.D.: "Lessons From the Mountain" 4:45 Harry Browne (1996 Libertarian nominee for President)

"The Most Powerful Political Message in the World" 7:30 The Road to Victory Gala Awards Banquet (with music & dancing)

Workshop: "Successful Local Organizing," with Perry Willis

9:00 David Nolan (Libertarian Party Founder) 9:30

BUSINESS SESSION (to 12:00n) Credentials Report, LNC At-Large Elections, Judicial Committee Elections

Resolutions, Adjourn

LNC Meeting

New Speakers Added!





he was the Libertarian Party Vice Presidential candidate in 1996, campaigning in 31 states and winning praise as a political "dream woman." She is also a businesswoman and entrepreneur, and was the LP Congressional candidate in South Carolina in 1992.

he Father of the Libertarian Party is how he is often described because it was in David Nolan's living room in 1971 that the party was formed. A successful marketing professional and radio talk show host, he has also served as LP National Chairman and LP News editor.

multi-million-copy-selling author, he's written two #1 New York Times bestsellers. But he's probably best known to Libertarians for Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do, a scathing attack on the foolishness of arresting people for "consensual crimes."

The "First Step to Victory" party Election: New LP National Chair Tanya Metaksa, NRA spokesperson Election: New National Committee Robert Poole, Reason Foundation Candidate training sessions Harry Browne, the LP's 1996 presidential candidate LP Platform debate Roy Innis, head of C.O.R.E. Charles Murray, author of What It Means to Be A Libertarian Huge vendor & exhibitor area David Boaz of the Cato Institute Gala Awards & Honors Banquet Jim Lark, College organizing expert Steve Dasbach, National LP Chair "How-to" activist workshops on media, newsletters, & party growth Larry Elder, Radio Talk Show Host Walker Chandler, the LP lawyer who won a Supreme Court case Elected Libertarian panel Sharon Harris, Advocates for Self Government Jacob Hornberger, head of the Future of Freedom Foundation Waco: The Rules of Engagement documentary The Capitol Steps Tim Slagle, libertarian comedian Liberty Torch Reception

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LP bylaw changes?

Continued from Page 10

tive CEO. Accordingly, it is proposed that a structural change be made by hiring a full time CEO to direct the day-to-day activities of the party, thus relieving the Chair of those responsibilities. The Chair would continue in the role of Chairman of the Board [of the LNC], act as a party spokesperson, and maintain the other traditional responsibilities of the party's leading officer."

■ Provide that the National Officers and the LNC members shall be elected for four-year terms, those terms to run from each non-presidential nominating convention to the next.

Explanation: "Under the current rules, the entire governing body of the party is up for election at the most crucial time for the Presidential election campaign," he said. "Obviously, this is a tough assignment when the

entire party leadership could change at the same nominating convention. This [proposal] would provide stable leadership during the presidential nominating campaign."

Change the delegate allocation formula — from one delegate for every 20 national LP members to one delegate for each .07 percent of the total party membership.

Explanation: "The total number of delegates has been increasing and could overwhelm the ability of convention hotels to accommodate us. To solve this

problem, it is proposed that the delegate allocation be based on an affiliate party's percentage of the total national membership," said Bergland. "This formula would cap the total number of delegates at about 1,500 regardless of the absolute number of members. This is about the maximum for the largest convention hotels in the major cities."

All amendments to the LP bylaws require a two-thirds vote of the delegates for approval.

To propose any bylaws changes, contact David Bergland at: dpbergland@earthlink.net.

Prediction: Web will spawn new political party

new political party might arise from the Internet — and it will probably be libertarian in nature.

That's the prediction of the *Investor's Business Daily*, which wrote that "the idea that the two-party system itself could be in danger . . . isn't far-fetched."

In a front-page article on March 18, reporter Charles Oliver noted that "the switch from an industrial society to an information society has already brought enormous changes, and it's difficult to think that politics will be immune to these forces."

Specifically, the rise of the Internet and World Wide Web— "where voters everywhere are tied together by computer, constantly exchanging political ideas and information" — could force "tremendous change" on America's political system.

Who would gain?

And who might gain from a cyber-revolution in politics?

A libertarian party, he speculated — while acknowledging that the "Libertarian Party has not yet emerged as a threat to Democrats and Republicans."

However, many of the social and technological trends cited by Oliver seem to favor Libertarians. For example, he noted that . . .

Libertarians dominate the Internet: "Anecdotal evidence and polls show this group to be quite libertarian in its politics."

Both major parties have bungled issues dear to Net enthusiasts. "Congress outraged cybercitizens when it passed the Communications Decency Act in '96. And lawmakers may further alienate them if they pass controls on encryption," he wrote.

And "neither of the major political parties has figured out how to woo Net users," argued Oliver, citing proposed taxes on Internet commerce.

The good news for LP members, he wrote: "If the two big parties fail to win over wired voters, others are ready to try. The Libertarian Party claims to have been the first party with its own Web site. It now aims many of its activities at winning the online vote," he wrote.



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TALKINGPOINTS

The deadly 'fraud' of Medicare & the paradise of North Korea

Killer Medicare?

A Florida hospice was fined \$8.9 million, wiping out profits for five years, because 176 of 15,426 dying patients lived too long. Medicare rules say that hospice patients must be within six months of death when they are admitted. As the hospices' executive director observed, "this is easier to tell after the fact than before." To avoid fraud penalties in the future, a day before the six-month limit on life runs out, the hospice would have to terminate the life of patients who have managed to hold on to it. This is what you get with socialized medicine, which is what Medicare is.

- PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS, Washington Times, May 17, 1998

Thomas Jefferson: Felon

Thomas Jefferson: statesman, philosopher, drug kingpin. As anyone who follows the hemp movement knows, our third president grew cannabis on his Virginia farm. Lots of it. According to Marijuana News, published by an Ohio chapter of the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws, in some seasons Jefferson raised more than 100 acres of hemp, which was used to make sailcloth and rigging. With a typical yield of 150 plants per square yard, multiplied by 4,840 square yards per acre, that's more than 70 million plants a year.

Under the 1995 Omnibus Crime Control Act, anyone who cultivates more than 60,000 marijuana plants is a "drug kingpin," subject to execution. In a single year, then, the author of the Declaration of Independence qualified for the death penalty a thousand times over. Noting that the Democratic Party's platform praises the drug kingpin provision, Marijuana News concludes, "If Thomas Jefferson were alive today, William Jefferson Clinton would execute him."

- REASON, June 1998

Famine? What famine?

Announcement on North Korea's Radio Pyongyang on the benefits of living in the world's only remaining Stalinist state: "People of South Korea ought to



THOMAS JEFFERSON qualifies for the death penalty a thousand times.

move to North Korea, a paradise on earth, a land of democracy and welfare, where people have no worry of unemployment or

— WORLD PRESS REVIEW, May 1998

Free gas & tire changes

In December 1995, the California Private Transport Company opened 10 miles of new express lanes down the median of the Riverside highway, SR 91, in Orange County. Solo drivers pay up to \$2.95 (depending on time of day) to use them, while buses and three-person carpools pay half the solo rate.

The scheme was widely attacked when it was proposed eight years ago. State Senator Tom Hayden urged against selling speedy "Lexus lanes" to drivers who could afford them (even though this could take pressure off the other, populist lanes). Today that resentment has faded.

"The polls now show 65% of people support HOT [high-occupancy toll] in Orange County," says Peter Samuel, publisher of the Frederick, Maryland-based Toll Roads Newsletter, "even though only 15% use them. That was much lower before it started.

They find the biggest demand for HOT is on Friday evening people are [especially] willing to pay to get home then."

SR 91 general manager Greg Hulsizer reports that "many customers pay to use our express lanes even when the regular lanes aren't crowded." Maybe that's because of the cruising tow trucks providing free gas and tire changes to stranded motorists on the express lanes a bonus of privatization. A California Polytechnic study found that the toll lanes afforded 'dramatic congestion relief" on the free lanes.

- (RENO AIR) APPROACH MAGAZINE, May 1998

Money down the drain

Members of the European Parliament will never have to wait in line for a bathroom stall. Each has his own private bathroom, complete with shower. The bathrooms cost \$14,790

— CHARLES OLIVER, Reason, June 1998

Beware cyberstalkers

Vice President Al Gore sees the appeal in protecting the Internet generation from unwanted commercial snooping, and is calling a "privacy summit." But Gore's in a policy bind: If he supports encryption, which is the name of the electronic privacy game, he infuriates FBI datatappers. So he waffles.

We must demand that government set the example in snoopery restraint. If Americans allow ourselves to lose our expectation of privacy, we would then lose our privacy itself — and the essence of our personal freedom is that right to be left alone.

— WILLIAM SAFIRE,

New York Times, May 21, 1998

Organic regulation

Standards for organic food can be handled much more cheaply, much more simply, and with much less bureaucracy, by private industry.

Organic farmers could get together and form a standards association. Farmers and food merchants would submit to regular inspections by employees of the association, and if they meet the standards, they can display a certificate attesting to that fact.

Violators would be subject to civil and criminal action under existing fraud statutes, with no need for any additional laws for regulations.

In a free market, anyone who thinks one association's standards are too lax or too strict would be free to start another association which could issue its own certificates.

Utopian? Impractical? Not necessarily. That's how kosher food has been regulated for cen-

- CHARLES LEMBKE, KNX Radio, May 19, 1998

Size matters

For four decades, [auto] safety experts all assumed that safer models were better. Now federal officials say we were wrong the whole time.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration honchos believe that because the occupants of heavier vehicles fare better in crashes with lighter vehicles, the heavier vehicles are a safety problem. Oddly, the government is not mandating that small cars be strengthened.

Lighter cars mandated by government fuel-economy standards are already causing 2,200 to 3,900 deaths annually, according to a study by the Brookings Institution and Harvard.

Paramedics, who witness traffic accidents daily, tend to put their families in SUVs, pickups, or large cars. Let the bureaucrats and insurance executives leave their luxury cars and limousines and drive the subcompacts they recommend to us.

- DAVID C. STOLINSKY, The Wall Street Journal, April 15, 1998
- Send "Talking Points" contributions to Marc Beauchamp, 2231 Kings Garden Way, Falls Church VA, 22043. E-mail: mbeaucha@ix.netcom.com

www.middleclash.com

he world wide web will eventually spawn its own political party. As a
front-page article in Investor's Business Daily noted, the party will
probably be one that espouses many Libertarian principles. The web
is a natural home for people who resist "control freaks" and distrust
politicians who would seek to protect us from ourselves.

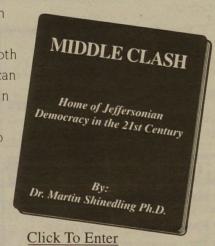
Dr. Martin M. Shinedling, a medical psychotherapist with over
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- Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights? Fullpage flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting outreach geared specifically for gun owners, explaining our 100% pro-gun position. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100
- Why Government Doesn't Work by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why (and how) government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Hardbound, 245 pages. Cost: \$11.95 (includes \$2 s/h charge)
- Enough Is Enough/Vote Libertarian Yard Sign. Great for campaigns — or anytime! 2-color (red & blue) 24" x 18," on sturdy foam-board. Cost: \$8.00 each
- LP Fact Sheets: Updated for 1998: 2-page LP history (political highlights 1971-1997) and comprehensive two-page bibliography (more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100
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Miscellaneous Items

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- LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk: 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. Cost: \$3 each
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Brochure: "Towards More Sensible Drug Policy"

Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"

Brochure: "What Happened/Your Family Budget?"

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LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk
"Liberty" Teddy Bear

Tools for Campaigning

Libertarian TV Ads
Statue of Liberty logo master
Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

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Occupation

Computer pioneer: Join the LP

Continued from Page 1

the PC industry since its inception. He was founding Associate Editor of BYTE Magazine in 1975, and founder of VisiCorp. the marketer of VisiCalc — the first commercially successful computer spreadsheet — in 1979. He is currently president of PC software vendor Frontline Systems, Inc.

In March 1998 he became the treasurer and webmaster for the Libertarian Party of Nevada.

As a Libertarian, he said he became concerned about increasing government intrusion in the PC industry — a concern which accelerated as competitors to Microsoft cheered the Justice Department's antitrust suit against the software giant.

Have we, he asked, opened a Pandora's Box?

"My answer is yes — we've opened Pandora's Box, and it will prove impossible to close it," he wrote. "Our industry is being politicized. Henceforth, it won't be enough to design and build great products, and sell them at attractive prices. We'll also have to compete in the political sphere. And that will take time and money, which will be siphoned off from product development and marketing."

Politicians' favor

And as the industry becomes more political, he predicted, companies like Microsoft which have the most money will be able to buy their way into the politicians' favor, and "the same coercive tools that are being used against Microsoft now could be used against all the anti-Microsoft folks in the future."

The problem, he wrote, is occurring because computer professionals have preferred to ignore the government.

"Most of us would rather avoid thinking about or spending time on politics - we'd rather be creating new technology, and satisfying more customer wants and needs," wrote Fylstra. "Many of us, if asked, would echo the classic cry laissez faire - leave us alone! But the politicians won't leave us alone."

The solution? It's not to "become active in 'mainstream' politics, in either the Democratic or the Republican Party, trying to move the politicians in a sen-

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Instead, he urged the computer industry to "try to gain leverage by investing in a political startup — one that is capable of challenging the status quo: The Libertarian political party.

"The Libertarians have the right ideas — about the wisdom of relying on the market, about the futility of central planning, about the practical importance of liberty for innovation and

growth, in our industry as well as others. These ideas are important to everyone, but they are critical to the computer industry. We have been held back, coopted, and bamboozled for too long by today's very disappointing political leaders. It is time for us to get involved, grow our own new political leaders, and get them elected."

What difference would it make if the high-tech community were to embrace the Libertarian movement in a big way?

"I believe that if enough of us made this decision, it would fundamentally alter the future, both for our industry and for American politics," he wrote.

"In my view, the Libertarians may be the only real alternative we have to becoming just another industry that is caught up in the stasis of American politics — the only way to get Hope out of the bottom of Pandora's box.

For the complete text of "Pandora's Box," see: www. frontsys.com/pandora. htm.

■ In the June issue, Bruce Coe, a member of the Kittitas County Planning Commission, was incorrectly listed as a resident of Oregon in the story, "Libertarian Officeholder cuts his own pay." In fact, Mr. Coe is in office in Washington state.

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From THEEDITOR

The Top Ten reasons to attend the LP Convention

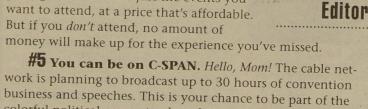
#10 You'll become smarter. You'll be exposed to some of the most interesting, provocative speakers in the freedom movement: Tanya Metaksa on the Second Amendment; Jacob Hornberger on immigration; Larry Elder on personal responsibility; Michael Cloud on why the LP is the "unreasonable alternative;" and the Cato Institute's Michael Tanner on the breakdown of Social Security . . . the list goes on and on. No matter how much you think you know, the convention will be a Master's Degree in Liberty, crammed into three days.

#9 You might become famous. Seriously. At the '96 convention, several Libertarians got into a conversation with political pundit David Broder — and found themselves quoted in his column in newspapers across the country. Another young delegate ended up on MTV. This year, that could be you.

#8 Washington DC is a nice place to visit over the Fourth of July. The politicians have all gone home, and the bureaucrats are on vacation. And with the political riff-raff gone, our nation's capitol is, surprisingly, a nice place. There are lots of interesting places to visit: Museums, monuments, parks — even the White House is just a stone's throw away. (Note: That is *just* a figure of speech.)

#7 It's a chance to say thank-you. As an LP member, you are part of the Partnership for a Free America. You do your part; others do theirs. Wouldn't it be nice if you made a point of thanking some of the other people who have worked so hard to build the LP? And if they did the same for you?

Whether you're coming for the entire four days, or just making a day trip, there's a package that includes just the events you want to attend, at a price that's affordable. But if you don't attend, no amount of money will make up for the experience you're



By Bill Winter,

colorful political pageantry, broadcast into millions of homes. #4 You'll become more talented. The convention will feature numerous workshops to teach you the political nutsand-bolts you need to build a stronger LP, or run a more effective campaign. And if you already know the nuts-and-bolts, you'll learn how to use a pair of pliers and a socket wrench (to dismantle the machinery of big government, of course!).

#3 For three days, you'll be the most important Libertarian in America. Your vote will determine the shape of the party's platform, and will select the party's new officers. Other delegates will lobby you, wheedling and promising, to win your support to their causes. Your political savvy will be tested. Your opinion counts. Your vote matters.

#2 The LP Platform needs improving. C'mon — there's got to be *one* part of the LP Platform that you think needs fine-tuning. Some wording that could be improved? A new insight that should be added? Attend the convention, and you'll be there as the new Platform is shaped and molded by the ideological artists and craftsmen of the party.

#1 You can wallow in Libertarianism. Libertarians are like Uranium: Cram enough of them together in one place, and critical mass occurs. Sparks fly. Vigorous agreements break out. Attend the convention and you'll spend four days with the most wonderful people on earth: Libertarians. It's guaranteed to be an explosion of fun. So . . . see you at Convention '98?

Ending Drug Prohibition: Moral, practical, and social arguments

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

By Laura Coker-Garcia

or a long time, the Libertarian Party stood alone in calling for the re-legalization of drugs. And many people considered Libertarianism a fringe movement because of our "radical" views on drugs.

Today Libertarians are not alone in calling for a change in America's drug policy. Organizations such as NORML, the Drug Policy Foundation, and the Drug Policy Forum have joined the movement to educate the public and lobby for an end to the War on Drugs. Hundreds of prominent individuals — including doctors, public health

ing doctors, public health officials, lawyers, police officers, and judges — have come forward to publicly say they support drug legalization. Grassroots movements have led to ballot initiatives to legalize medicinal marijuana use.

Libertarians want to legalize drugs for a number of reasons. The foremost reason is that the "non-initiation of force" philosophy demands this position. Libertarians believe that no crime is committed without the initiation of force, the threat of force, or fraud. Therefore, Libertarians are opposed to laws making consensual activities such as gambling, prostitution, and drug use into crimes.

laws making consensual activities such as gambling, prostitution, and drug use into crimes. If there is no victim, there is no crime. Individuals have the freedom to live their lives as they see fit as long as they don't harm anyone else. So if a person chooses to use drugs, that is their right — but if they go out and drive under the influence and injure someone in an accident, that is a crime.

The big crackdown

A second reason Libertarians favor legalization is practical. Prohibition just doesn't work. It didn't work for alcohol in the 1920s and it isn't working now. According to the Drug Policy Forum, the rate of addiction in 1914 was about 1.3% of the population, and hard drugs — drugs like cocaine — were readily available on grocery shelves. In 1979, before the big "War on Drugs" crackdown, the addiction

rate was still 1.3%. And in 1998? Still about 1.3%.

People who are going to use drugs are going to use them whether or not they are illegal. Why spend taxpayers' money to arrest millions of people a year for drug possession? Why impose mandatory sentences for drug users that are longer than those given to violent criminals?

Worse than drugs

Another reason for legalization is that drug laws are worse than drugs. The War on Drugs is expensive. Between 1981 and 1994, well over \$150 billion was spent on the drug war, accord-

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ing to the Drug Policy Foundation. And another \$150 billion has been spent since then.

Drug prohibition, just like alcohol prohibition, has lead to a black market and increased the power of gangsters. According to FBI data, one out of three robberies and burglaries is committed to obtain money for highpriced, black market drugs. Up to 40% of the murders in major cities and 20% of the killings nationwide occur in the drug trade. Innocent children and police officers are often caught in the crossfire.

Prohibition enriches gangsters. At least \$40 billion a year goes to the criminal underworld as profits from drug sales, according to the Drug Policy Foundation. And drug prohibition corrupts police. Drug profits often tempt public servants to become criminals themselves. Prohibition also endangers police officers who risk their lives enforcing prohibition — but each drug dealer caught is quickly replaced.

Drug laws frighten people away from admitting they have a problem and seeking treatment. And drug laws prohibit users from access to clean needles and lead to the spread of diseases such as AIDS. Many American AIDS cases are traceable to the shafing of infected needles by drug users.

Drug laws jeopardize our freedom. Just as protecting the children is an excuse for violating First Amendment rights to free speech, so drugs are used as an excuse for violating Fourth Amendment rights to be free from the search and seizure of your property. The application of racketeering laws (RICO) to drug cases has made the seizure of property routine. Without ever making an arrest, police have confiscated family farms, motor homes, cars, and other property. Police routinely seize what they

consider unreasonable amounts of cash from travelers under suspicion that the money is being used for a drug buy. The owner must then prove that the money is innocent.

Harassment

The drug laws are also applied in a racist manner. Young black men — who are all drug dealers in the minds of the police — are subjected to what amounts to harassment if they drive a nice car, visit certain neighborhoods, or just go out to a club. Ac-

cording to government statistics, while only 15% of all drug users are black, 74% of the people in prison for drug crimes are black. Blacks make up about 12% of the population.

The Libertarian Party does not advocate the use of drugs. But recognizing that people should have the right to make their own decisions and that the War on Drugs is ineffective, expensive, and has led us closer to a police state, the party calls for the legalization of drugs for personal use. Also, we support holding people who commit crimes or cause accidents while under the influence of any drug (including alcohol) fully liable for their actions. The party also supports the repeal of all laws and regulations which impede the establishment of private drug treatment programs.

Editor's note: Reprinted from the December 1997 Gulf Coast Libertarian (Texas). Laura Coker-Garcia is the editor of that newsletter.

THEMAILBOX

Freedom is at stake

I was appalled to see Libertarians defending the Justice Department's prosecution of Microsoft (The Mailbox, June 1998). Regardless of the quality of Microsoft's products, this prosecution is wrong.

Contrary to Terry Warren's statement, the students who protested in defense of Microsoft do "have a clue." By contrast, Janet Reno can't even use a computer because they are too "confusing" for her. But she is prosecuting a company that gives consumers what they want: A plug and play system that requires no training to use.

Warren wrote that he believes in private property and the free market but claimed they do not apply to the Microsoft case. How can such principles, which are the foundation of the U.S. free market system, only apply in certain situations?

He goes on to say that Microsoft's success comes from its marketing. Of course it does! Every company relies on marketing to sell products.

Who will regulate Microsoft if the government doesn't? Americans' wallets will. I do not subscribe to the idea that Americans are too stupid to make their own decisions and thus need the government to take care of them. If you believe that, what other aspects of life should the government regulate?

I participated in that protest because Bill Gates has done more to improve my life than Janet Reno ever will. As a Libertarian, I recognize that freedom is at stake.

— **LISA MARIE STRONAWSKI** Washington, DC

What is going on?

Two letters in The Mailbox [June 1998] caused me great concern. One "Libertarian" wants government to "protect him" from the requirement to purchase new software whenever he upgrades his hardware. Another "Libertarian" believes that "the public is too uninformed," and government regulation is absolutely the only alternative to Microsoft's theft, corruption, and monopoly practices.

What is going on? With Libertarians like these who are the real Republicrats?

— **RICHARD BIELICKI**Camp Hill, Pennsylvania

"We trust you"

I simply must respond to the two letters advocating the regu-

lation of Microsoft [June 1998]. Mr. Peterson objects that his "software become(s) useless if I upgrade my operating system."

This is ludicrous since it is akin to objecting that my old mechanical carburetor doesn't work on my new '98 model automobile. He should be elated at the continual rapid progress of the computer industry, but instead throws out an altered version of the Naderite "planned obsolescence" argument.

Mr. Warren states that "Microsoft should be regulated and if the government doesn't do it, who will? The public is too uninformed to care . . ." If Microsoft does not provide the best value to consumers over a period of time, the market will "regulate" it by embracing a

BILL GATES

has done more to improve my life than Janet Reno ever will.

competitor's product. Competition works, even if it takes time and allows apparent temporary inefficiency. Government locks in unfairness and inefficiencies.

......

As to the "uninformed public," this canard is universally used by advocates of government intrusion on both the Left and Right. The beauty and selling point of libertarianism is that we are able to let go of the human impulse to dictate our "superior" knowledge, values, etc. onto other people. We trust the vast majority of people to make the best choices for themselves in nearly every facet of their lives. We will set people free, both to pursue their dreams and occasionally skin their knees. If this is the only message we get out to people, it will do us the most good. "We will set you free, because we trust you." It is a compelling philosophy.

— **TOM SPARKS**Glencoe, Illinois

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Support good work

After reading the articles by Gene Cisewski and Jacob Hornberger in the June 1998 issue of *LP News*, I'd like to ask them a simple question: Why do they believe that their "grassroots" approach is incompatible with what Hornberger called an "enormously powerful, well-oiled, well-financed political machine"?

There is nothing that makes these approaches mutually exclusive. Both can be done simultaneously. In fact, both *should* be done simultaneously. Yet everything each of these two men has written in libertarian publications to date suggests that the two approaches are incompatible. Why?

Why is it so hard for them to applaud the building of membership and the raising of money? After nearly 30 years, the LP has learned over and over again how hard it is to succeed without funding.

Even those local races that have been won by Libertarians required spending money at a rate that was at least in the same ballpark as their opponents. Money doesn't necessarily win a campaign. But it sure helps.

The party leadership has certainly made mistakes. Being human, they can do no other. I guarantee that Cisewski and Hornberger would also make mistakes if they had been in power. But the LP leadership has also done some very positive things, too. They should be credited for their successes. Until Cisewski and Hornberger can learn to reconcile themselves to the positive impact the party leadership has had, they won't get my support. The LP will only succeed if we support good work, not by criticizing it.

- WALT THIESSEN

Naugatuck, Connecticut

Only candidate

The ultimate goal of the Libertarian Party is to gain control of government through the election of Libertarians to public office. We need an effective national chair to guide us toward achieving this goal.

Gene Cisewski is the only candidate for national chair who has held public office (the Ironwood, Michigan city council). Therefore, he is the only qualified candidate for national chair. If we are serious about putting Libertarians in public office, we need a national chair who actu-

See MAILBOX Page 18

THEPULSE

Pro-choice versus pro-life...

bortion: It's one of the "fault-line" issues of our time—dividing Americans on medical, religious, and legal grounds. So, too, is it with Libertarians. This month's Pulse question—"Should the LP be prochoice, pro-life, or something else?"—drew the largest response ever and some of the most passionate answers. Using arguments based on Libertarian philosophy, the U.S. Constitution, and simple pragmatism, Libertarians were sharply split on this issue.

A firm "pro-choice" position was the plurality favorite, with 35.2% of the vote, while 30.2% took a solidly "prolife" position. And 18.6% said that the party should take no political position on this issue. Another 4.9% said the party should be pro-choice until some predetermined point in the pregnancy, and 2.3% argued that the government should take no position on abortion — which would de-facto legalize the procedure. A final 8.8% gave answers that were indecisive or confusing.

Here is a representative sampling of the responses:

- The LP should be officially "pro-choice." If we are the party of principle how could it possibly be otherwise?
 STU YOUNG, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Abortion is a brutal, coercive, usually fatal act against a defenseless victim. The party should be pro-life.

 JOHN FINERTY, Alexandria, Virginia
- The abortion debate really is not political. It is religious. Since different religions, even different churches within a religion, cannot agree on the subject, it is pointless for the LP to venture into the quagmire.

— DON WACKER, Issaquah, Washington

■ Abortion is the initiation of force against a nonconsenting individual. That individual comes with all the natural rights you and I expect.

— TIM ELLSWORTH, Fort Wayne, Indiana

- The misnamed "pro-life" position is an attempt to use the armed force of government to impose the policies of some religious groups upon the entire population.

 WILLIAM D. YOUNG, Jr., Franklin, New York
- As long as Republicans are "pro-life" and Democrats are "pro-choice," the Libertarian Party should "split the difference" by simply leaving this issue out of our platform.

 FRANK GROVES, Rockville, Maryland
- Intelligent Libertarians know that sex is supposed to result in pregnancy. The "choice" was made with the decision to engage in sexual activity. An abortion is a

cowardly maneuver to evade personal responsibility.

— KYLE VRAA, New Brighton, Minnesota

■ The Libertarian Party should be pro-choice: It will be easier to grab votes away from the Republican Party, which is increasingly caving in to the religious right. If we're officially pro-choice we affirm that we are not puppets on a string for Ralph Reed.

— GLEN GOODMAN, Jenkinton, Pennsylvania

- Drugs, such as RU-486, are quite capable of bringing on [an abortion]. A Libertarian government will not seek to regulate those substances any more than it would regulate other drugs, alcohol, or guns. [So] what is there to discuss? JULIUS MARX, Buffalo Grove, Illinois
- The Libertarian Party needs to be pro-life in principle, pro-choice with respect to a woman's personal decisions about her baby, and anti-anything done by politicians to compel us to do something one way or another.

 JOHN REINKE, Kendall Park, New Jersey

For more responses, see the LP News web page: www.lp.org/lpn/

THEMAILBOX

Continued from Page 17 ally has held public office.

Please support Gene Cisewski for national chair.

— **JERRY BROITZMAN, JR.** Greenfield, Wisconsin

Cigarette taxes

I read with interest your short article on raising cigarette taxes (The Issues, May 1998). Are you aware of the following? The Canadian government almost fell a few years ago when [it] raised the cigarette tax to an impossible level. What happened was predictable — the "law-abiding" Canadians participated in wide-spread smuggling. The procedure was for Canadian cigarette manufacturers to export their products to the U.S. These cigarettes were then smuggled back into Canada and sold un-

der-the-counter. The government eventually had to back down and lower the tax.

— **FRANK LUTHER**Helenville, Wisconsin

Basket case

The article on immigration [LP News, June 1998] didn't offer any Libertarian solutions to problems related to immigration.

With the United States' low birth rate, immigration, at the present estimated rate of 3,000,000 per year, is our source of increased population. This increase is the cause of sprawl, congested highways, pollution, and increased need for sewers, garbage dumps, police, schools, etc.

This country is expected at the current rate of growth to be no longer self sufficient for food in 25 years. Unlimited immigration could change the U. S. from the bread basket of the world to a basket case.

Eliminating welfare [for] immigrants may not be enough. As long as we are the most free country in the world, people will come. Of course, with our tendency to more government, we may cease to be free.

— **BEVERLY LYNCH**Newark, Maryland

THE PULSE

September Question

ardly a week passes when some aspect of the Monica Lewinsky/ Bill Clinton / "Fornigate" scandal isn't in the news yet the LP doesn't speak out about this ongoing saga. Why? Because throughout its history, the LP has rarely, if ever, commented on such scandals, arguing that they don't relate to core Libertarian principles and that it wouldn't help us achieve our ultimate goal: Enhancing individual liberty. But some Libertarians argue that we could gain a partisan advantage by taking a stand, or that we should be vocal in speaking out against governmental "immorality." QUESTION: Should the LP publicly speak out about White House sex scandals? Why or why not? (Keep answers to 100 words or less.)

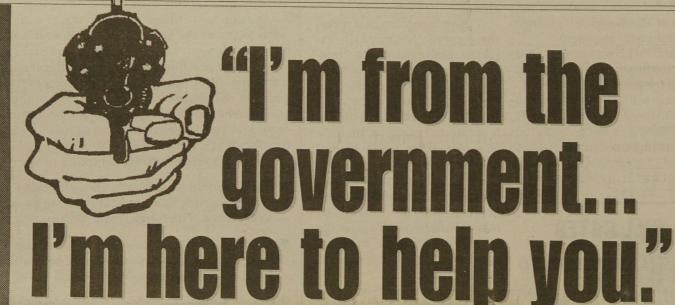
■ DEADLINE: Aug. 5, 1998

August Question

ow big can a government get before it infringes on citizens' inalienable rights? And how small can it get and still protect essential liberties? QUESTION: In percentage terms, how big should the federal government be? (100 equals the size/cost of today's federal government. Zeró equals no federal government at all.) Please give your exact preferred percentage size of the federal government and a brief explanation of what you'd trim to get to that size. (Limit your answer to 100 words, please.) ■ DEADLINE: July 5, 1998

Pulse Entry Guidelines

nclude your name; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month. ■ Send e-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve. com. (Include "Pulse" in the subject line.) ■ Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse) ■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037



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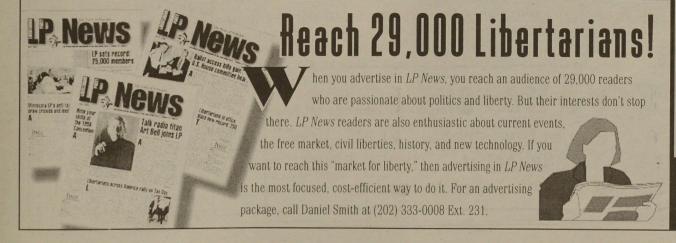
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UPCOMINGEVENTS

July 1, 1998

Future of Freedom Foundation special summer meeting of the Vienna Coffee Club at the Omni Shoreham Hotel, Washington, DC. Keynote speaker: Walter E. Williams. Topic: "The Role of Government in a Free Society." Moderator: Jacob Hornberger, FFF president. Panelists include James Bovard, author of *Lost Rights*. For information, call: (703) 934-6101

July 2-5, 1998

Libertarian Party National Convention, Washington, DC. Speakers include 1996 LP presidential candidate Harry Browne, 1996 vice presidential candidate Jo Jorgensen, LP founder David Nolan, bestselling author Peter McWilliams, WABC's "Lionel," Roy Innis (C.O.R.E), Tanya Metaksa (NRA), and Charles Murray (author of Losing Ground). Also: Robert Poole (Reason Foundation), David Boaz (author of Libertarianism: A Primer), Steve Dasbach (National LP Chairman), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Michael Tanner (Cato Institute), and Sharon Harris (Advocates for Self-Government). Performers include "The Capitol Steps" and comedian Tim Slagle. For information call (202) 234-3880.

July 11, 1998

Luncheon with Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX), Rockwell's Restaurant, West Palm Beach, Florida. Sponsored by the LP of Palm Beach County and the Voices of the Florida Taxpayer newsletter. Tickets: \$34. There will also be a cocktail reception

that evening on the island of Palm Beach. Suggested contribution: \$250 per person. For more information on either event, call Philip Blumel at (561) 616-0709.

August 23-27, 1998

International Society for Individual Liberty's 1998 World Conference, Berlin, Germany. Speakers include Barbara Branden (USA), Christian Comanescu (Romania), and Bertrand Lemennicier (France). Cost: \$760. For more information, contact ISIL at isil@isil.org. Or call: (707) 746-8796.

September 18-20, 1998

1998 Gun Rights Policy Conference, Doubletree Hotel (Seatac Airport), Seattle Washington. Sponsored by the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep & Bear Arms and the Second Amendment Foundation. Speakers TBA. For information, call (425) 454-4911. Fax: (425) 451-3959. E-mail: jbarnsaf@aol.com.

November 6-8, 1998

Fully Informed Jury Association National Convention (FIJACon IV) Dallas, Texas. Includes a Continuing Legal Education Seminar and activist training and lobbying sessions. For more information, call: (800) TEL-JURY or (406) 793-5550.

February, 12-15, 1999

California LP Convention, DoubleTree Hotel, San Jose. Speakers TBA.

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FIRSTWORD

[The Libertarian Party is] "what some colleges and universities around the nation are now referring to in course titles as 'the third major party in American politics.' "

— DAVID M. KOZENKO, The Loudoun Times-Mirror (Virginia), May 6, 1998

[Libertarians are] "a group of congenial folks dedicated to an ideal that Americans as a whole seem to have neglected recently: The ability of free people to work out their destinies themselves. If any idea smacks of collectivism, the folks are against it, in a James Madison-Thomas Jefferson tradition that goes right back to the Revolution."

- M.D. HARMON, Portland Press Herald (Maine), April 13, 1998