

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle®



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FOREIGN POLICY & LIBERTY

Libertarian views on the war in Iraq

What do libertarians think about the war in Iraq? Here are 10 perspectives on the war from prominent libertarian activists, writers, talk show hosts, and academics. Each of these individuals is either a self-described libertarian or associated with a libertarian organization.

Of course, no short, edited essay can possibly convey the totality of these writers' opinions. Instead, these essays are "snapshots," intended to give a brief — but accurate — sense of how a variety of libertarians view the war, foreign policy, history, and the role of government. (Following each essay, a website is given where the individual writer's unedited essay can be found.)

Most of these viewpoints are anti-war; a few are pro-war. Some were written before the war; others after the fighting started. Because of LP News's monthly deadlines, none can take into account any recent developments in the conflict, including the "fall" of Baghdad.

Note: These essays do not reflect the official position of the Libertarian Party. They are merely intended to illustrate how the broad "freedom community" has reacted to the war.

■ The health of the state

By Steve Chapman (March 20, 2003)

War is unpredictable, and there is no reason to think the invasion of Iraq will be an exception. Only one thing about war is certain: It enhances the size, power, reach, and prestige of the federal government.

Conservatives say they want to curb the role of government in our lives. But this time, as so often before, they have been the most enthusiastic supporters of a policy that will subvert those goals.

The tab for invading Iraq could exceed \$100 billion — more than the annual budget for the departments of Energy, Commerce, Housing and Urban Development, Interior, and Justice combined.

Worse still, the actual expense for bombs, bullets, and fuel is the least of the cost of [President] Bush's plan for Iraq. For years to come, American taxpayers will also be on the hook for running and rebuilding a country devastated by war.

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Eric Shinseki has said the occupation of Iraq could require "several hundred thousand soldiers." The Congressional Budget Office estimates it could cost up to \$45 billion a year, and could take several years. It's not far-fetched to imagine the United States burning through half a trillion dollars over the next decade.

How long will the American military be in Iraq? We occupied

See **IRAQ** Page 14



■ **David Kelley:** Elected to the Rockford School Board (Illinois).



■ **Kathy Kelley:** Rock Valley Community College Trustee (Illinois).



■ **Paul Kitmann:** Elected Burns Town Chairman (Wisconsin).

In local Spring elections, 15 Libertarians win office

By Bill Winter
LP NEWS EDITOR

At least 15 LP members won public office in Spring elections, with Libertarian candidates emerging victorious in five states.

In Wisconsin, Libertarians boasted of a 47% success rate in the April 1 election, said state LP Executive Director Jeremy Keil.

"The Wisconsin Libertarian Party won seven out of 15 non-partisan races," he said. "[That's] more wins and candidates than any other third party in Wisconsin."

■ In a four-way race for two seats, Patricia Stanislawski was elected to the Dexter Town Board with 26% of the vote.

■ Running unopposed, Glenford Logan was elected Cornell City Judge in Chippewa County, making him the first Libertarian judge in the state.

■ Facing only a token write-in opponent, Lawrence Beaulieu won a seat on the Cornell City Council.

■ In Cross Plains, Bob Bowman was elected Town Board Supervisor. He was unopposed.

■ In a tight race, incumbent — and new LP member — Paul Kitmann was elected Town of Burns Chairman with 50.3% of the vote.

■ In Neenah, Nick Piergrossi won an unopposed seat on the City Council (District 1).

■ Steve Scheunemann emerged victorious in a contest for Kewaskum Village Board. In a five-way race for three seats, he won 18% of the vote.

The Wisconsin LP won so many contests because Libertarians are "concentrating on the races we can win," said Keil.

"In Wisconsin, 55% of local races go uncontested. This means that we have the opportunity to win elections just for showing up. Also, by contesting these elections, we [can be] the de facto 'second party' in over half of the state."

Even though several LP candidates won unopposed races, their elections are still important, said Keil.

"These wins show what the Libertarian Party can do at the local level, especially with the momentum we have in Wisconsin," he said. "When Libertarians are elected to office by the dozens or hundreds in our towns

See **ELECTED** Page 7

Party works to slow USA/Patriot Act II

The Libertarian Party has joined a coalition to slow Congressional efforts to pass the so-called USA/Patriot Act II — saying the proposed anti-terrorism legislation is a threat to Americans' liberties.

LP Chair Geoffrey Neale signed a letter that asked U.S. House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) to make sure that any Congressional action on the secretive USA/Patriot Act II is taken "calmly and deliberately."



The letter also asked that "the liberties and freedoms at the core of the American way of life" be protected when the measure is considered.

The letter was drafted by the Washington, DC-based Center for National Security Studies and the Open Society Policy Center, and was sent to Hastert in early April.

The Libertarian Party joined the coalition because the USA/Patriot Act II — so named because of its similarities to the original USA/Patriot Act — poses a "grave danger" to civil liberties, said Neale.

"If passed, this bill would swing

See **PATRIOT ACT** Page 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Judge James Gray takes on Florida drug czar

The first round of "The Judge Vs. the Drug Warrior" goes to Judge James Gray.

The Orange County, California Superior Court judge was left standing on the stage after Florida Drug Czar James McDonough bolted before his closing remarks in a drug policy forum in Orlando, Florida.

Gray — who joined the LP in February and is reportedly thinking about seeking the party's 2004 presidential nomination — "was a far superior debater," reported the *Orlando Weekly*.

The Community Forum on Substance Abuse, which took place in the Orlando Renaissance Hotel on March 14, was organized by the Foundation for Social Justice and several pro- and anti-drug war groups. It also featured Orange County homeland security director Jerry Demings.

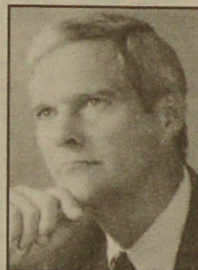
After fielding a number of questions, McDonough was confronted by a woman in a wheelchair with Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Medical marijuana has kept her alive for seven years, she told the Drug Czar. "Who are the politicians to tell me I can't live?"

McDonough told her that marijuana isn't medicine, and then "bolts" before making closing remarks, reported the *Orlando Weekly*.

During his remarks, Gray argued that the War on Drugs has not reduced the amount of illegal drugs in the country, has eroded civil liberties, and makes drugs more dangerous.

Gray, 57, is the author of *Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It: A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs*.



■ **James Gray:**
Superior debater.

State Chairs vote to form Leadership Alliance

Libertarian state chairs have voted to organize a new Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, which will work to help state affiliates become more successful.

A steering committee for the new organization was approved with only one dissenting vote at the conference of LP state chairs held in Houston, Texas on February 22-23. Thirty-four representatives from 29 state affiliates attended the event.

"Most everyone was very excited about the idea," said Sean Haugh, executive director of the North Carolina LP, who proposed the idea. "They see it as a vehicle for pure action."

When officially launched, the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) will work to "spread best practices in the state and local affiliates across the country," said Haugh. "Our first charge is to identify what works in the various states and develop ways to put that information into everyone's hands."

Serving on the LSLA steering committee with Haugh are Jeremy Keil (Wisconsin LP executive director), Doug Klippel (Florida LP State Chair), Brad Klopfenstein (Indiana LP executive director), Ray Ledford (Tennessee LP State Chair), Gerhard Langguth (Arkansas LP State Chair), Mark Nelson (Iowa LP State Chair), Mark Rutherford (Indiana LP State Chair), and Chuck Williams (South Carolina LP State Chair).

The LSLA steering committee has the "informal goal" of creating a draft charter, mission statement, and structure by the end of April for discussion and approval by the state chairs, said Haugh.

Bake sale makes affirmative action point

Libertarians at the University of Georgia in Athens used a little sweetness — in the form of cookies, muffins, and cakes — to demonstrate why government-mandated affirmative action is wrong.

The University Libertarians sponsored an on-campus bake sale on March 10, and charged black, white, Asian, and Hispanic students different prices for the tasty treats.

The purpose of the variable prices was to show why affirmative action — which applies different standards to different races and genders — is morally wrong, said freshman Libertarian Chris Leonard.

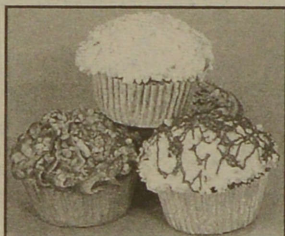
University Libertarians charged blacks and Hispanics 25¢ for the baked goods, while Indians and Asians paid 50¢, white women paid 75¢, and white men paid \$1.00.

Some students seemed to understand the message the Libertarians were trying to convey. "They made their point," said junior Brad Northenor. "I understand what they are trying to get across."

Other students didn't appreciate the lesson.

"We even had someone call us racist pigs," Leonard told the *Red and Black* student newspaper.

The bake sale did accomplish its goal, said Leonard: It got students debating the merits and morality of affirmative action.



Party works to slow USA/Patriot Act II

Continued from Page 1

the pendulum even further in the direction of greater government power," he said. "In the name of fighting terrorism, it would allow the government to make secret arrests, create a vast new DNA database of suspected terrorists, and potentially strip Americans of their citizenship."

"These provisions are not compatible with the Bill of Rights, or with fundamental American liberties, or with a nation that calls itself free."

In the letter to Hastert, the coalition noted that its members were "concerned" that the anti-terrorism bill would "erode basic civil liberties."

To protect against that danger, the coalition urged Hastert to make sure the USA/Patriot Act II will be "considered deliberately with a determination to protect both national security and the liberties at the core of the American way of life."

The letter also encouraged Hastert to follow "normal parliamentary procedures" when considering the bill.

Careful analysis

Specifically, the coalition said the "bill should not be considered until it has gone through the full OMB [Office of Management and Budget] clearance process. The bill should be referred to the Judiciary and other appropriate committees on a schedule that provides adequate time for full and careful analysis."

"Those committees should hold extensive hearings, where the [Bush] Administration can explain its views in detail, and outside groups can respond."

By following these procedures, "the House is more likely to ensure that any legislation it enacts will properly reconcile the requirements of security with the demands of liberty," said the letter.

Other organizations signing the letter included the American Friends Service Committee, the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Center for Democracy and Technology, Common Cause, the Constitution Project, People For the American Way, the Project on Government Oversight, and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

Coalition members said they were concerned that Congress may try to speed the USA/Patriot Act II through the legislative process without proper

Bill would give feds 'sweeping new powers'

According to a report from the Center for Public Integrity, written by Charles Lewis and Adam Mayle, the USA/Patriot Act II would "give the government broad, sweeping new powers to increase domestic intelligence-gathering, surveillance and law enforcement prerogatives, and simultaneously decrease judicial review and public access to information."

According to the report, areas of concern in the bill include:

■ **Section 301-306, "Terrorist Identification Database":** Would authorize creation of a DNA database on "suspected terrorists," expansively defined to include association with suspected terrorist groups, and non-citizens suspected of certain crimes or of having supported any group designated as terrorist.

■ **Section 405, "Presumption for Pretrial Detention in Cases Involving Terrorism":** Would allow those suspected of terrorist activity to be held without bail before a trial.

■ **Section 201, "Prohibition of Disclosure of Terrorism Investigation Detainee Information":** Would enhance the government's ability to deny releasing material on suspected terrorists in government custody through Freedom of Information Act requests.

■ **Section 312, "Appropriate Remedies with Respect to Law Enforcement Surveillance Activities":** Would terminate most state law enforcement consent decrees before September 11, 2001 that limit such agencies from gathering information about individuals and organizations on the grounds they could impede current terrorism investigations.

■ **Section 501, "Expatriation of Terrorists":** Would allow an American citizen to be expatriated "if, with the intent to relinquish his nationality, he becomes a member of, or provides material support to, a group the U.S. has designated as a terrorist organization." While a citizen formerly had to intentionally relinquish citizenship, the new law says intent can be "inferred from conduct."

deliberation, and with no publicity.

According to U.S. Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX), the original USA/Patriot Act — which was signed into law on October 26, 2001 — was rushed through the House so quickly that members did not even have a chance to read the bill before they voted on it.

Coalition members said they also were concerned about the clandestine nature of the USA/Patriot Act II.

The bill was secretly written by the Justice Department and has not yet been introduced in Congress. However, a draft of the legislation was leaked to the Center for Public Integrity in early 2003.

The formal name of the draft legislation is the Domestic Security Enhancement Act of 2003. If passed, the bill would give the U.S. government the power to:

■ Issue secret subpoenas, and jail people who reveal to anyone except their attorney that they are the subject of a secret investigation.

■ Strip Americans of their citizenship for associating with a group designated by the attorney general as a "terrorist organization."

■ Make secret arrests. This provision would effectively overturn a federal court decision that requires the government to identify suspects detained in post-9/11 investigations.

■ Create a database of DNA collected from "suspected terrorists" and from non-citizens suspected of ordinary crimes.

■ Conduct a wiretap for 15 days without a judge's approval, and monitor an individual's Internet and chat room visits for 48 hours without a court order.

While no date has yet been set for Congress to consider the USA/Patriot Act II, LP Communications Director George Getz said the party will monitor the status of the bill.

If it looks like it will come up for debate, the LP will launch a lobbying campaign against the bill, he said.

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NATIONAL CHAIR:
Geoffrey J. Neale
12903 Grubstake Gulch
Austin, TX 78738
E-mail: chair@LP.org



LP NEWS EDITOR:
Bill Winter

LP NEWS PUBLISHER:
Libertarian National
Committee, Inc.

EDITOR EMERITUS:
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SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS,
PHOTOGRAPHS, OR ADVERTISING:
Bill Winter
1640 Worcester Road, #330-D
Framingham, MA 01702
Phone: (508) 820-7340
E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
Libertarian Party
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
Or call: (202) 333-0008 x 223

LP Platform Special Committee works on 'reformatting' planks

The LP Platform Special Committee has begun work on the most sweeping overhaul of the Libertarian Party's guiding philosophical document in the party's 31-year history.

The committee — 20 LP members from around the USA who are collaborating via e-mail and a special web-site — is working to "reformat" the Platform so each plank includes four elements: Issues, principles, solutions, and transitions.

"We hope that [the reformatted Platform] brings a consistently clear strong message to the voting public," said committee member George Squyres.

Ideally, the project will end with an LP Platform that will "stop the attacks against our candidates," he said. In addition, the reformatted Platform should be "shorter and less verbose."

The project is part of the Libertarian Party's Strategic Plan, adopted

"THE TASK IS CLEAR: creating language that will be a concise, insightful solution to a clearly recognized set of requirements."

—George Squyres

by the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. in August 2001.

One of the 20 political strategies in the plan calls for the party to "Re-develop the LP Platform, presenting both direction and destination, with an eye toward electoral success (without compromising core beliefs)."

Initially, the reformatting project will not add new language to the Plat-

form, said Squyres.

"Rather it will take the existing language and determine in which of the four logical categories — Issue, Principle, Solution or Transition — does the language correctly belong," he said. "The individual sentences will be assigned to one of these four depending on the function that sentence most closely performs."

Not rambling

After that process is complete, committee members will "offer suggestions for replacement language where deficiencies have become obvious," he said. "The task is clear — creating language will not be the rambling emotional operation of the past but a concise, insightful solution to a clearly recognized set of requirements."

The committee will post the finalized, reformatted planks to a website for LP members to review, said See **PLATFORM** Page 11

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Party statement on the war in Iraq

On March 20, just after the United States launched military activities in Iraq, Libertarian Party Chairman Geoffrey Neale issued the following statement:

On behalf of the Libertarian Party, I wish to express our deep concern for the U.S. troops currently engaged in war in Iraq, and urge the government to end the conflict quickly and with as few casualties as possible.

Though it is difficult for Americans who have never fought in battle to imagine a soldier's fear and bravery, it is easy to imagine the anguish that every family will feel for their sons and daughters who never return.

For that reason it is essential that the government make every effort to minimize casualties on both sides in this conflict.

Libertarians believe that all Americans should give moral support to our troops, and we urge those who are opposed to the war not to blame soldiers for the misjudgments of politicians.

Sadly, this war may extract horrific costs not only from governments and soldiers but from American society. More terrorist acts may yet be committed inside our borders; relationships with our friends and allies could be forever diminished; and the financial costs of war could be catastrophic to an already stumbling economy.

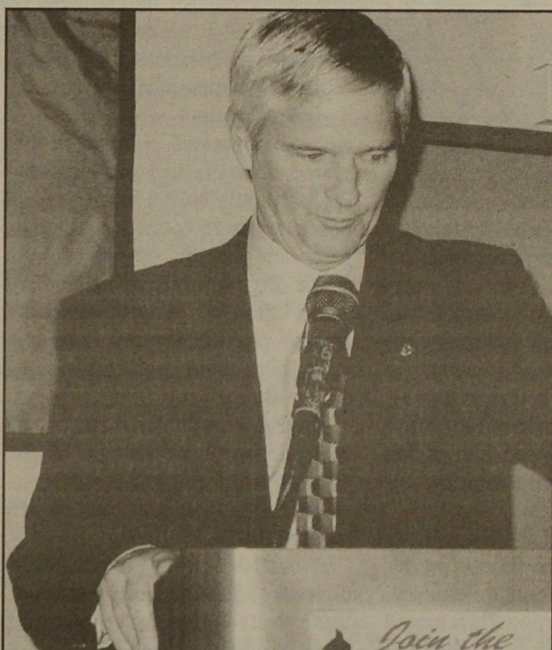
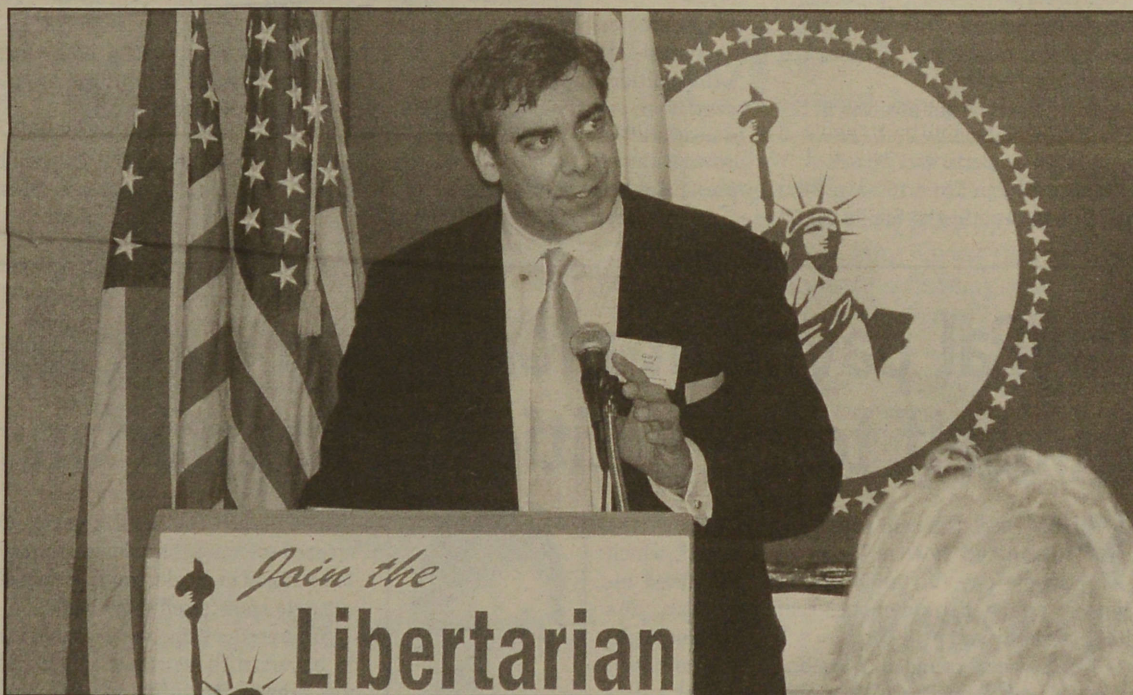
Because Libertarians believe in limited, constitutional government, we are disappointed that President Bush declined to seek a formal declaration of war as clearly required by Article I, Section 8 of that document. By acquiescing to the president, Congress has abdicated its responsibility as well.

The Libertarian Party also urges the administration to abandon its plans for an occupation of Iraq — a policy that would further inflame anti-American sentiment in the region without benefiting the U.S. in any way.

Though Mr. Bush promises that democracy will soon sprout from dictatorship in Iraq, the results of U.S. military involvement in Panama, Haiti, Kuwait, Afghanistan and other nations indicate that such promises are far easier to make than they are to keep.

Finally, we would remind the nation that the traditional American values of peace, freedom, and military non-intervention have served this country well in the past and should be embraced again.

To that end, we hope that our political leaders can summon the wisdom to bring our armed forces home from Iraq.



Presidential candidates speak

The campaign for the party's 2004 presidential nomination is heating up, with appearances by two of the potential frontrunners at the California LP state convention in Ontario, February 15-17.

Above: Syndicated radio talk show host Gary Nolan, who formed a presidential exploratory committee in January, was asked how his campaign might help Libertarians. Nolan said: "I would use my extensive media contacts to help you get elected."

Left: California Superior Court Judge James Gray, who hinted he might seek the LP's nomination, said that America's drug laws have failed.

"I suggest that the Libertarian Party make the issue of Drug Prohibition the singular issue of the upcoming elections in 2004," he said. "Whether they know it or not, the people of our country are looking to the Party of Principle for leadership in this most critical area."

A third active candidate, Texas resident Michael Badnarik, did not attend the California convention.

POLITICAL NEWS

Bill Redpath named national LP treasurer

Bill Redpath has been named new Libertarian Party treasurer, replacing Deryl Martin, who resigned in January.

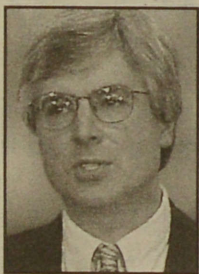
Redpath, a Virginia resident, was elected by the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. at its meeting in Atlanta, Georgia, March 22-23. Except for one ballot for None Of The Above, the vote was unanimous, said LP Chair Geoffrey Neale.

"I am most pleased that the LNC chose him as the replacement for Deryl Martin," he said. "I think he is a most exemplary individual, not only in his professional skill set, but also in his dedication and his ethical standards."

As treasurer, Redpath said he will focus on tasks related to the cash crunch the party has been struggling with for the past year — as well as the usual government reporting requirements.

"My biggest challenge will be working with [LP Operations Director] Nick Dunbar to maintain the accuracy of our accounts, getting our accounts payable reduced to current invoices only, and getting all government-mandated reports (i.e., IRS and FEC) filed accurately and on a timely basis," he said.

Redpath served on the LNC from 1989 to 1993. He was the Virginia LP's candidate for governor in 2001 and is a CPA.



■ Bill Redpath: He's "exemplary."

Illinois Libertarian named to voting board

An Illinois Libertarian has become the second LP member appointed to a state-level election improvement board.

In February, Illinois LP Executive Director Jeff Trigg was named to the State Planning Committee, formed by the State Board of Elections to implement the Help America Vote Act [HAVA] of 2002.

"We were shocked when they asked," said LP State Chair Rhys Read. "[But] with ballot access in five state representative districts and one U.S. House district, the Libertarian Party is a stakeholder. I'm glad the Board of Elections recognizes that."

Passed after Florida's 2000 "dangling chad" presidential election, HAVA established a program to help states improve election processes.

Although he will serve on the committee that will dole out federal funds to help Illinois replace antiquated punch-card voting machines, Trigg said he doesn't think the program is needed.

"I say the federal government should take this money and [give] it back to the residents of Illinois as a tax break — and let Illinois decide their own voting systems, thank you very much," he said.

In early February, Libertarian Christa Adkins was named to a similar planning committee in Indiana.

L. Neil Smith: Would run computer campaign

If science fiction author L. Neil Smith gets the LP presidential nomination, he'll run his campaign sitting at his computer.

That's what Smith wrote in Issue 212 of his online newsletter, *The Libertarian Enterprise*.

In an essay entitled "If I ran the Circus," Smith said an LP presidential campaign must be run differently from those of Republicans and Democrats, who have unlimited resources and the ability to attract media attention.

"To any extent Libertarians have mindlessly imitated traditional Republican or Democratic strategy or tactics, they have been operating at a severe, self-imposed disadvantage," he wrote. "Directly confronting the Boot On Your Neck party in this country is exactly like putting your army head-to-head with another, bigger, more powerful army."

Instead, Smith — who is the subject of a "Draft Smith" movement but has not said if he will seek the LP's 2004 nomination — said he would run a "guerrilla" campaign that focuses on the Internet.

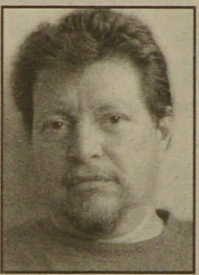
"What I'd do, for the most part, is what I do right now: read my e-mail and answer it," he wrote. "I would acquire a bigger, faster desktop PC than I have now, and hook it up to some sort of broadband access to the net."

Smith would not travel very much, he wrote, because "excessive traveling exhausts the candidate, strains his family, and wastes the resources people have given him to do the job."

Such a campaign, he wrote, should be able to win 1 million votes, which would be enough to shake up the nation's political system.

"For the first time in LP history, we'll be going after our voter, and forget about the ones who will never vote our way," he wrote. "And I'd do it by the easiest, cheapest, and most modern medium available."

L. Neil Smith is the author of 23 books, including *The Probability Broach*. Read *The Libertarian Enterprise* at: www.webleyweb.com/tle.



■ L. Neil Smith: Online campaign.

Maine Libertarian testifies for bill to end automatic property seizures

A Maine Libertarian activist has testified in support of a bill that would strip towns of the power to automatically seize property if owners didn't pay taxes on time.

Maine LP Press Secretary Greg Thorup spoke in favor of LD 251 before the state's Joint Standing Committee on Taxation on February 14.

The bill, sponsored by state legislator Kevin Glyn, would repeal Maine law MRSA 943.

That law allows towns to trigger a lien against property owners if they fail to pay taxes on time. After 18 months, the town automatically owns the property if the taxes are still unpaid.

Traditionally, said Thorup, Maine towns agreed to payment plans for landowners who owed past-due taxes. Or, if a property was foreclosed, they would return to the owner the excess proceeds after the taxes were paid.

American principle

"But recently, towns hungry for cash have decided to seize property for pennies on the dollar, just because they can," he said. "This law violates every basic American principle, and needs to be repealed."

Thorup said he got involved in the campaign for LD 251 after a neighbor's property was seized.

"My neighbor lost a 100-acre farm which had been in the family for 57

"RECENTLY, TOWNS hungry for cash have decided to seize property for pennies on the dollar, just because they can."

—Greg Thorup

years," he said. "While suffering from pneumonia, he managed to present a \$27,000-plus check for overdue taxes on what he thought was the last day of the lien. He was told that the town would not accept his check, and already owned his property."

If it passes, LD 251 would require municipalities to allow property owners facing tax lien foreclosures to set up a payment plan to pay the past-due taxes. It would also put a moratorium on the sale of foreclosed property as long as the owner was making a good-faith effort to pay.

In addition, the bill would require towns that sell foreclosed property to return all proceeds to the former owner, minus the value of taxes, interest, and the cost of the sale.

In his testimony to the Joint

Standing Committee on Taxation, Thorup made the case for LD 251 by arguing that the law it would repeal, MRSA 943, is unconstitutional.

"MRSA 943 is in violation of the Fifth Amendment's due process clause," he said. "Automatic ownership based on a mailed letter is not sufficient notification. Due process should [include] an appearance before a judge to verify the property owner is cognizant [of the seizure]."

Pick and choose

In addition, MRSA 943 violates the Fourth Amendment's prohibition against "unreasonable" property seizure, said Thorup. "The owner must be issued a warrant, stating what is being seized, and why. In most cases, the law also violates the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause, because towns pick and choose which properties appeal to them for seizure, and which do not."

Most committee members "seemed sympathetic" to his testimony, said Thorup.

Arguing against Thorup was an attorney for the Maine Municipal Association, who said the idea that property "reverts back to the town" is based on Elizabethan law.

If approved by the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation, LD 251 could come before the Maine House for a vote within the next few months.

PayPal payment pioneer proclaims himself to be politically libertarian

Peter Thiel, the man who revolutionized how millions of people pay for products and services online, has announced that he is a libertarian.

Thiel, who co-founded the online payment company PayPal, revealed his libertarianism in a March 6 interview with United Press International (UPI).

When asked about his political beliefs, Thiel said, "Well, I was pretty libertarian when I started [in business]. I'm way libertarian now."

Over the years, Thiel, 35, has made no secret of his libertarian/conservative beliefs: While attending Stanford University in 1987, he helped found *The Stanford Review*, which attacked the "intolerant and overwhelmingly politically correct liberal atmosphere" at the Ivy League school.

In 1998, he wrote (with David O. Sacks) *The Diversity Myth*, about the harmful impact of politically correct "multiculturalism" on higher education and academic freedom.

In 1999, he contributed to the Hoover Institution's book *The International Monetary Fund — Financial*

Medic to the World?, which advocated replacing the banking organization with "market-based alternatives."

In a September 2001 interview with *Wired* magazine, Thiel said he traced his libertarian beliefs to two books he read in high school: Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's *Gulag Archipelago* and J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings*.

Tolkien's famous fantasy trilogy — a parable about the corrupting allure of power — "convinced him of the perils of concentrated authority," reported *Wired*.

Payment via e-mail

After working in New York for several years as an attorney, Thiel moved to Palo Alto, California in 1997 and



■ Peter Thiel: Is 'way libertarian.'

helped launch PayPal. The company created software that allowed money to be stored in an electronic form and securely transferred via e-mail.

The product opened e-commerce to buyers without credit cards, and was a boon for online retailers and customers. It also helped fuel the growth of eBay, since it gave small marketers an inexpensive way to accept instant cash payments.

Over the next four years — as most e-commerce companies first soared, then crashed and burned — PayPal quietly built a base of 16 million users in 36 countries. The company now controls 90% of the non-credit card online-payment market.

As UPI noted, "PayPal was able to achieve profitability at a time when most [high-tech] companies were in a huge slump."

PayPal went public in 2001 — the only successful technology IPO (Initial Public Offering) of the year.

In 2002, Thiel sold the company to eBay for \$1.5 billion.

Thiel is currently the managing director of Thiel Capital, a \$100 million private equity firm investing in growth opportunities.

'The Ballad' breaks the barrier

The biggest problem with Libertarian books is getting non-Libertarians to read them.

But with his second book, celebrated Libertarian speaker and columnist Vin Suprynowicz has finally succeeded in breaking through the Cone of Ignorance and Apathy.

Last November alone, *The Ballad of Carl Drega* received full-page, rave reviews in the mainstream newsstand publications *Backwoods Home*, *Soldier of Fortune*, and *Guns & Ammo* (combined circulations: 697,570)!

The Ballad of Carl Drega is a great book for a cold winter's day because what you read will set your blood to boiling," wrote Oliver Del Signore in *Backwoods Home*. "It is a volume every soccer mom, environmentalist, feel-good, knee-jerk do-gooder and politician should study because it will open their eyes to the reality of what 50-plus years of socialist intervention and government expansion have done to this once proud land and the values for which it once stood."

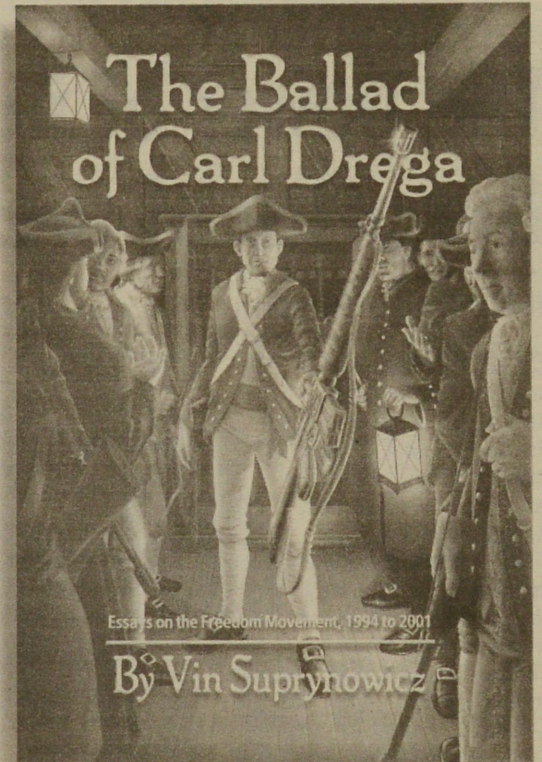
"Any American who says, 'Something doesn't smell right,' will find Vin showing the reader the source of the stench," adds Ron Newman, news director of radio station WBIG in Aurora, Ill. "It's up to us to clean it up."

The Ballad of Carl Drega — not just stirring, inspiring and entertaining, but the outreach tool we've all been waiting for!

Separate chapters in 'The Ballad' cover taxation, the War on Drugs, the government schools, mandatory vaccinations, the "Child Welfare" bureaucracy, and "Environmentalism as a State Religion." Gun rights get three full chapters.

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Introducing new Liberty Book Shop!

Many thousands of copies have been sold via mail-order and the Internet, but the "traditional" book publishing industry can claim no role in the success of John Ross' great novel of the oppressed modern American gun culture, *Unintended Consequences* ... nor New York state (government-school) Teacher of the Year John Taylor Gatto's devastating critique of mandatory schooling, *Dumbing Us Down: The Hidden Curriculum of Compulsory Schooling*.

And renowned UCLA biochemist and researcher Dr. Peter Duesberg's superbly researched and argued rebuttal (heck, call it what it is — his devastating disembowelment) of the official HIV/

AIDS hypocrisy, *Inventing the AIDS Virus*, languished unrecognized as Politically Correct reviewers treated it to the worst fate any author can imagine — silence.

Books that are important to the freedom movement; books that explain how we're losing our freedoms, why it matters, and what can be done. Books that are overlooked, orphaned, or just plain hard-to-find.

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Vin's newsletter is your passport to the freedom movement!

The freedom movement lives, and Vin Suprynowicz's work continues, cataloging the ongoing outrages of those who make war on our liberties, and the occasional, encouraging success stories of America's modern freedom fighters.

Freedom fighters come in many shapes. You may be a home-schooler fighting to free your children from that government monopoly, or a gun-rights activist resisting victim disarmament. Maybe your cause is fully-informed juries, or the true nature of the crippling "payroll tax," or "mandatory" vaccines.

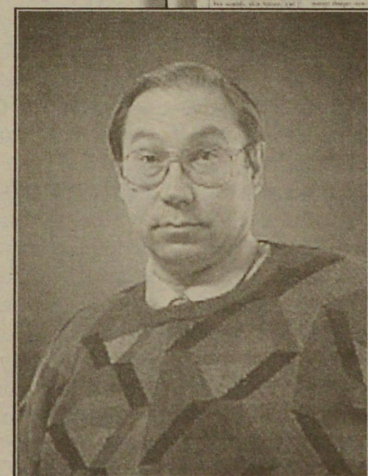
In *Privacy Alert*, America's Libertarian columnist researches, explores, and reports on your remaining legal avenues to shield your family from extortion and coercion by tyrants of all stripes.

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Read the best from Vin and associates, every month, and gain access to the privacyalert.us Web site with its many years worth of archives, back issues, search engine, special reports, the bone-chilling monthly "Road to Dystopia" digest, letters and reader questions and suggestions every month. You don't have to be alone: Join *Privacy Alert*.

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TALKING POINTS

The power of incumbency and the price of prescription drugs

■ Today's justification

[In a speech on March 31], shifting his argument against Iraq, Bush cited the liberation of the Iraqi people as his main justification for war, promising that U.S. forces "will not relent" until the population is freed from tyranny.

In the past, Bush had insisted the regime must be toppled because it possesses weapons of mass destruction, an allegation he mentioned only in passing.

— ANNE E. KORNBLUT
The Boston Globe
April 1, 2003

■ Hearts and minds

The battle for Iraq — and for the hearts and minds of Arabs — is not being played out just on the vast Iraqi desert but also in an unprecedented fashion [on television] in living rooms, restaurants, and workplaces across the Muslim world.

As images of civilian casualties and Iraqi resistance fill their TV screens, support for Iraq and animosity toward the United States grows and hardens among Arabs.

"In the short term, and probably the long term, I only see the Arab public increasingly blaming the United States. The public relations war may be lost for the United States," says Shibley Telhami, a Middle East expert at the University of Maryland.

The implications of this loss could be grave. One rationale for overturning the Iraqi regime is that a decisive show of force would intimidate enemies of the United States and strengthen pro-U.S. governments. But in the short term, at least, anti-American sentiment is growing.

All the Arab networks, including the more moderate ones like Al-Jazeera, run extensive and frequent graphic footage of civilian casualties that make Western coverage look antiseptic. One day last week, while Sky News repeatedly ran a tape of Iraqis receiving humanitarian aid from British soldiers, Al-Jazeera kept rolling images of the dozens injured and killed in an accidental bombing of a Baghdad market.

Dramatically different, too, is the vocabulary used. What Western news media call the "coalition forces," Arab networks and newspapers universally call "invaders."

— ELLEN HALE
USA Today, March 31, 2003

■ Big Mac attack

To the hundreds of news articles that have been written about the pending fast-food lawsuit in New



**DON GORSKE IS
a Wisconsin man. He
downed his 19,000th
Big Mac a few weeks
ago (he keeps track),
proving "that foods
you love don't have
to make you fat."**

York, we add this tidbit. Don Gorske is a 49-year-old Wisconsin man who eats two Big Macs every day and drinks little else besides Coca-Cola. The Guinness Book of World Records certifies that he has eaten more Big Macs than anyone else in history.

The Associated Press notes that Gorske downed his 19,000th Big Mac a few weeks ago (he keeps track), proving "that foods you love don't have to make you fat." Gorske is 6 feet tall and weighs 180 pounds. We doubt he'll appear on [attorney] John Banzhaf's witness list.

So far, the self-named Center for Science in the Public Interest hasn't sued the Guinness Book for promoting such awful, irresponsible, life-threatening dietary behavior.

— CENTER FOR CONSUMER FREEDOM
March 27, 2003

■ Hang up on this

Although you'd be hard-pressed to find any language in the Constitution authorizing such a thing, Congress is now entertaining a "Cell Phone User Bill of Rights" that would impose a variety of new mandates on the wireless industry.

Senator Charles Schumer has proposed the measure as a way to "foster competition."

Hmmm... perhaps Sen. Schumer is not talking about the same cell phone industry that the other 137 million of us currently subscribe to

in America because it is difficult to see where the crisis is here. Consumers aren't clamoring for federal regulation, and why should they?

Today, almost all Americans have a choice of at least three cellular providers, with most having five or six to choose from. Average local monthly bills fell from an estimated \$95 per month in 1988 to roughly \$47 in 2002. Service options and calling plans have multiplied. And service quality is constantly improving.

This sounds like a classic capitalist success story, not a pending consumer crisis that requires bureaucratic intervention to head off.

Why not a "Clean Gas Station Bathroom Bill of Rights" and a "Speedy Restaurant Service Bill of Rights" while we're at it?

— ADAM D. THIERER
The New York Post
March 12, 2003

■ Exorbitant prices?

"There's no question that prescription drugs cost too much in this nation," claims Senator James M. Jeffords (I-VT).

No question? Saving lives, improving health, enhancing quality of life, eliminating the need for hospitalization and surgery — these benefits aren't worth paying for?

Well, complains Elizabeth Wennar, spokeswoman for the Coalition for Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs, Glaxo cares nothing for "the quality of care and well-being of seniors who cannot pay the exorbitant American prices for their lifesaving drugs."

Didn't Glaxo create these lifesaving drugs? And they would not have been developed but for prices high enough to cover the research and development costs of failures as well as successes. The "Coalition for Access" would return us to a time when there were far fewer drugs to access.

The pharmaceutical industry is one of the main reasons that so many elderly today are enjoying longer and better lives.

— DOUG BADOW
TownHall.com, March 18, 2003

■ Personal responsibility

Most Americans say individuals are primarily responsible for the country's obesity problem, according to a new survey.

More than eight in 10 Americans (83%) say that some personally controlled factor — either individual choice, a lack of exercise, or watching television — is responsible for obesity. Notably, only 5% point to the

fast food phenomenon or larger portion sizes, and 4% hold food manufacturers themselves responsible.

In addition, 78% agreed either "strongly" or "somewhat" with this statement: Overweight and obese Americans have no one to blame but themselves for making unhealthy food choices.

— GROCERY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, March 31, 2003

■ Bureaucratise?

Officials at Nevada's Yucca Mountain repository for high-level nuclear waste are struggling with a Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirement that the site post signs warning intruders of its dangers, lasting as far into the future as the year 12,000 A.D., even though no one knows whether any language now spoken on Earth will be spoken then. (The oldest known writing, Sanskrit, is about 7,000 years old.)

— CHUCK SHEPHERD
News of the Weird
March 23, 2003

■ Uneven playing field

The incumbent re-election rate last November was 98.5%. Only four incumbents lost their seats to non-incumbent competitors.

Considerable blame lies with contribution limits. Contribution limits ensure an uneven campaign-playing field. They greatly reduce the likelihood that a challenger will successfully oust an incumbent because it's difficult for a challenger to oust an incumbent unless the former spends at least as much as — [or] more than — the latter during the campaign.

Only by accepting and spending large sums can a challenger develop the levels of name recognition, issue identification, and voter mobilization to catch up with the years of subsidized campaigning and pork barrel spending that characterize an incumbent's terms in office.

Incumbency is now so entrenched that many voters lack any real say. Incumbents share a semi-perpetual easement on their seats that more nearly resembles hereditary entitlement than the competitive politics we associate with a democracy.

— PATRICK BASHAM
Cato Daily Commentary
March 28, 2003

■ The truth about wine

On wine labels, truth is no defense.

It was more than a decade ago that wineries first tried to inform their customers about the health benefits of moderate drinking. Since then the evidence has only gotten stronger, but the federal government still won't let them talk about it.

That is the upshot of regulations [from] the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB).

The TTB reiterates the government's position that "a specific health claim," no matter how well documented, "is considered misleading" unless it is accompanied by detailed warnings about the risks of alcohol.

Since 1989, [federally mandated warning labels call] attention to the birth defects, car accidents, and health problems that can result from

alcohol abuse. In fact, it was partly to balance this daunting message that vintners began asking for permission to mention the large and growing body of evidence that moderate drinking helps prevent heart disease.

Let's be clear: Wineries do not want to deny the existence of fetal alcohol syndrome, or assert that driving while intoxicated is a good idea.

So when the TTB says a vintner's message would be "inconsistent" with the official warning, it means simply that the message would reflect well on the product.

— JACOB SULLUM
The Washington Times
March 23, 2003

■ Faux addictions

Is "hamburger addiction" like "heroin addiction?" Will fast-food chains become the next tobacco industry?

Such implausible ideas got a boost recently in the respected British weekly *New Scientist*, which detailed "new and potentially explosive findings... that eating yourself into obesity isn't simply (due) to a lack of self-control."

George Washington University law professor John Banzhaf, a key architect of tobacco litigation, already has connected obesity and addiction.

"Addiction as a concept was a breakthrough in terms of successful tobacco litigation," Banzhaf told me. "With growing evidence that fatty foods can have addiction-like effects, this will be a new, untested weapon in obesity suits."

It is true that people can "crave" pizza as they might a cigarette and that they sometimes consume fries compulsively. But these facile comparisons tell us little about the nature of overeating. Instead, they show how the term "addiction" can be stretched until it becomes meaningless.

Virtually every pleasure we encounter — listening to music, sex, even exercise — is associated with surges of dopamine similar to those during a high-fat meal. But we call these pleasures, not addictions.

The word "addiction" is perilously close to losing any meaning.

— SALLY SATEL
USA Today, March 11, 2002

TAX DAY OUTREACH?

Did you participate in a Tax Day rally, protest, or media event on April 15th? If so, let LP News know for coverage in the June issue! Be sure to include the location (including city/state), the type of activity, the name of your local/state LP group, the number of LP participants, any media coverage received, any Post Office complaints/legal threats, and the reaction from taxpayers. Send your report via e-mail or mail. E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org. Mail: Bill Winter, Attn: LP News, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702. Thanks!

15 Libertarians elected in five states

Continued from Page 1

and counties, people will respect us and [be more willing to] vote for us at the state and federal level."

In Illinois, five Libertarians were elected on April 1, reported state Executive Director Jeffrey Trigg.

"A huge congratulations to our newly elected Libertarians," he said. "So far, it looks like of the 10 Libertarians on the ballot, five won! Now we need to get 100 on the ballot and have 50 win next time around."

David Kelley was elected to the Rockford School Board, grinding out a 99-vote victory, 52% to 48%.

"The people of [School Board] Subdistrict G were tired of the status quo," he said.

In office, Kelley said he hopes to introduce more competition to improve school performance.

"We have wildly escalating costs and declining quality of product," he said. "That's a classic symptom of a monopoly."

Meanwhile, his wife, Kathy Kelley, was victorious in her race for a six-year term as a Rock Valley Community College Trustee. She came in first of five candidates, winning 34% of the vote.

With their victories, Kathy Kelley and John Kelley have created something of a political dynasty: Their son, Douglas, is currently serving the second year of a six-year term on the Rockford School Board.

Jerry Kohn won an unopposed race for the Acorn Library District in Cook County.

Alma Read earned a seat on the Elk Grove Township Elementary Board (District 59), beating an incumbent in the process. Read won 2,934 votes (22%) in a four-way race.

Anti-tax activist Jeff Glaser finished third of five candidates for Batavia School Board (District 101) in Kane County.

Meanwhile, in New Hampshire, Charles E. Carroll, Jr. was elected to one of two seats on the Rindge Town Planning Commission on March 11.

Coming in second of three candidates in the non-partisan race, Carroll won 43% of the vote. About 1,300 town residents cast ballots.

New ideas

"We feel this was a great election with very little work," said Travis Eaton, Carroll's campaign manager. "The planning board will have a new voice with new ideas, instead of the normal anti-business, anti-homeowner ideas."

During his campaign, Carroll took part in a candidates' forum, where he promoted Libertarian solutions for local problems.

"His performance at the forum appears to have played a large part in his decisive win," said Monadnock Libertarian activist James Maynard.

Also in New Hampshire, Howard Wilson won a three-year term on the non-partisan Andover Budget Committee on March 11.

Wilson collected 34.5% of the vote to win one of two open seats. He faced one other candidate on the ballot and

a strong write-in challenger.

Once he is sworn in, Wilson said he will keep "a close eye on the overall budget of the town and the school district."

Wilson had previously served on the Andover Budget Committee (1984-87), and had been a member of the town's Board of Selectmen (1991-97).

In Massachusetts, Chuck Ormsby won a seat on the non-partisan North

Andover School Committee on March 4. In a four-way race for two seats, Ormsby won 2,020 votes. He will serve a three-year term.

Ormsby said he won because he campaigned "at a level significantly higher than the typical School Committee race — more like a State Representative race."

"I started the campaign early with a town-wide mailing to all households that produce votes in local elections,"

he said. "I also participated in a candidates forum/debate on local cable, and a candidate's night at a large elder-housing complex."

In addition, Ormsby posted about 125 campaign signs, made 700-1,000 calls, sent out one mailing, and had two campaign flyers inserted into the *Eagle-Tribune*.

"This campaign was a real marathon battle!" he said.

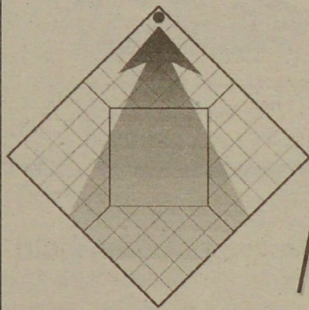
Ormsby said he positioned himself as for school choice, against school spending increases, for teacher evaluations and merit pay, and against the idea that smaller classes

improve educational outcomes.

Now that he's in office, Ormsby said he will "fight to dramatically improve educational outcomes without tax increases."

In other races, R. Scott Bludorn came in fourth out of four candidates for three seats on the Buffalo Grove Village Board of Trustees in Illinois. Bludorn won 1,114 votes (11.5% of the total votes cast), while the third-place finisher won 29.0%.

In Wisconsin, in a heartbreaking near-miss, Clear Creek Village Board candidate Lotty Macik lost his bid for re-election by one vote — 125 to 126.



The Advocates for Self-Government Presents...

2002 Lights of Liberty AWARD WINNERS!

The Advocates for Self-Government congratulates the following people for outstanding libertarian activism that reached millions of Americans in 2002 with a positive libertarian message.

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

Those with ★★ by their names completed 2 of the 3 activities; the 14 people with ★★★ did all 3 outreach activities — the "Libertarian Triathlon."

ALABAMA

Jack Andrews
Greg Bacon
Dick Clark
Paul Frankel
★★★ Holden
McAllister
Freeman Presson

ARKANSAS

★★ Karl Kimball

CALIFORNIA

Amarcy Berry
Dr Bradley Bobbs
Cathi Brown
Lance Brown
J.R. Graham
David Miller
Rick Newhouse
Ric Pinkerton
Kelly Russell Simpson
★★ Varrin
Swearingen

COLORADO

Steve Adams
★★★ Biff Baker
John Berntson
★★ Steve D'Ippolito
Randy Grant

Ed Goodrich
Scott Graves
★★ Steve Gresh
★★ John Gurley
★★★ Keith Ham-
burger
Lawrence Hamilton
★★★ Desiree
Hickman
Jeff McQueen
Patrick Patrick
Lidia Seebeck
★★★ Mike Seebeck
★★ Ralph Shnelvar

CONNECTICUT

Courtenay Hough

FLORIDA

A.J. Brent
John Roszman

GEORGIA

Nelson Barnhouse
Ron Belcher
Jennifer Camillo
Tracee Carlisle
★★ Doug Craig
Chris Farris
Garrett Michael Hayes
Steve Hoffman

Alaina Inman
★★★ Todd King
★★★ Scott Kjar
★★ Mark Mosley
Michael Pitts
Ted Skirvin
Leslie Spornberger
Christopher Swartz
Terry Turner
Kathryn Wietzl

ILLINOIS

★★★ Jeffrey Trigg

INDIANA

Barry Campbell
Greg Hertzsich
★★★ Erin T.
Hollinden
Michael Martin
Victoria Grace Martin

IOWA

★★★ Richard
Campagna

KANSAS

★★ Maike Warren

LOUISIANA

Vinson Mouser

MASSACHUSETTS

★★ Rich Aucoin
Michael Cloud
★★ Carla Howell

MICHIGAN

Krystal Dutkiewicz
Richard Dutkiewicz
Dick Gach

MISSOURI

Tom Arth
★★ Mike A Bozarth
Kevin Bullock
Mitch Moore
Sharon Vaughn
John Williams

NEBRASKA

★★ John Graziano

NEVADA

Howard Knudsen
Mary Rahn

NEW YORK

Joseph Dobrian
★★ Scott Jeffrey
★★ Jak Karako
Nicolas Leobold
★★ Jim Lesczynski

NORTH CAROLINA

★★ Gregg Adelman
★★★ Pete Camp
★★ Cameron DeJong
Sean Haugh
★★ Charles Hickman
Velma Hickman
★★ Shane Killian
★★ Jennifer Medlock
★★★ Rachel Mills
★★ Richard Norman
★★ Ed Topolski
★★ Beverly Wilcox

OHIO

Del Dalesandry
Bill Hickman

OKLAHOMA

Jimmy Cook

OREGON

Trude Blomsoy
Ingvar Doessing
Chuck Holloway
Valorie Holloway
Ed Pool
Cindi Rawlins
Larry Stone
Sherrie Stone

PENNSYLVANIA

Mark D. Crowley
Darryl Gibson
Tom Giles
Ronald L. Goodman
Ken Krawchuk
★★ David Tartaglia

SOUTH CAROLINA

★★ William M.
Holder

TENNESSEE

William Bolen
Chris Fortner
Jonathan McGlumphy
Richard Pearl

TEXAS

★★ Michael Badnarik
Jeff Daiell
Robert Hansen
★★ Steve Kirby
★★★ Paulette Mason

Congressman Ron
Paul

Dr. John Turnbow
★★ Robert West
Don Zimmerman

UTAH

★★ Ron Copier

VIRGINIA

★★ Ron Cricken-
berger
Jacob Hornberger
★★★ James W. Lark
III
★★ James Simpson

WEST VIRGINIA

Amanda Barie

WISCONSIN

★★★ Aaron
Biterman
Joseph Hiegel
Ed Thompson

AUSTRALIA

Ronald Bradley
Elaine Hollingsworth

UNITED KINGDOM

Matthew David Platts

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

You can become a 2003 Lights of Liberty winner!

The 2003 Lights of Liberty award program for outstanding libertarian activism is already underway. To learn how to qualify, visit www.TheAdvocates.org. Email: advocates@TheAdvocates.org. Call 800-932-1776.

Advocates for Self-Government, 269 Market Place Blvd. #106, Cartersville, GA 30121-2235

Note: If you met the requirements in 2002 but aren't on this list, you can still get your award and have your name added to the Honor Roll at our Website. Contact us.

AFFILIATE NEWS

Libertarians work against 'rollover' budgets, a ban on fireplaces, and smoking regulations

■ ARIZONA

Libertarian files lawsuit against 'rollover' budget

A longtime Libertarian activist has taken the state government to court, charging that an accounting gimmick used to "balance" the budget is unconstitutional.

On March 17, **Ernie Hancock** filed suit in the Arizona Supreme Court, and asked the justices to prohibit the state legislature from performing a so-called "education rollover."

Legislators plan to delay a \$191 million payment to public schools, scheduled for June, until July 1. The maneuver would move the cost into the next fiscal year, technically balancing the 2003 budget.

But Hancock said the gimmick would push the state beyond its constitutional debt limit of \$350,000.

"It's just a check-kiting scheme and it's unconstitutional," he said.

Hancock said the lawsuit is necessary because the governor plans to roll over \$90 million more next year.

"There is no limit to what this could be," he told KAET TV. "They want to start off at \$250 million. I'll bet you it'll go up — it could be a billion dollars [before they're done]."

■ CALIFORNIA

Fresno County LP raps city ban on fireplaces

The Fresno County LP is burning up over a plan to ban wood-burning fireplaces.

In early February, the Fresno City Council voted to prohibit wood-burning fireplaces in new or remodeled houses, apartments, and condos to reduce air pollution.

The move ignited a quick response from Fresno County LP Chair Rodney Austin.

"It is good to see that the City Council is concerned about pollution, because it is a violation of the personal and property rights of those [who] are injured by it," he said. "But this ordinance is overkill."

The ban will merely cause potential residents who want a fireplace to move to nearby cities — and "because air pollution is a regional phenomenon, fireplace use elsewhere in the valley will nullify Fresno's ban," said Austin. "Moreover, only a small fraction of the homes will be affected by this ban, further trivializing the benefit of this ordinance."

■ GEORGIA

Lobbying effort kills code inspection rule

Southern Crescent Libertarians have convinced Forest Park politicians



New Jersey LP nominates candidates at March state convention

■ **John Taylor**, nominated as the LP candidate for Highlands Borough Council, addresses delegates at the New Jersey state convention, held at the Marriott Hotel in Trenton on March 1.

Along with Taylor, delegates nominated Robert Hull (State Assembly, 11th District), Emerson Ellett (State Senate, 11th District), Lou Stefanelli (State Senate, 12th District), Jany Sabins (State Assembly, 27th District), Dan Karlan (State Assembly, 39th District), and Len Flynn (Freeholder, Monmouth County). However, the state LP still needs more candidates for the November 2003 election, said State Chair Emerson Ellett.

"Of 120 legislative seats up for grabs this year, the NJLP is challenging at the present time only five seats in three districts," he noted. "We're going to need a lot more legislative candidates if we hope to loosen the bonds of the current election law. That's because a large number of candidates constitutes credibility in the eye of the courts."

to repeal an ordinance allowing city inspectors to conduct unannounced inspections of rental property.

On March 17, the Forest Park City Council voted 5-0 to repeal Section 8-2-5 (Inspection of Rental Properties) of the city's municipal code.

The ordinance had required landlords to notify the city every time a new tenant moved in, and granted city inspectors access to property to look for code violations.

"This is a violation of the Fourth Amendment," said **Philip Bradley**, Chair of the Clayton County LP. "It creates a second class of American citizen [landlords], and then requires members of that class to waive their Constitutional protections under the Fourth Amendment."

The Southern Crescent Team, a coalition of Clayton and Henry county Libertarians, held a public forum on March 13 to discuss the ordinance, and went door-to-door, handing out fliers to residents and explaining why the ordinance was wrong.

In the face of growing public concern, the city council repealed the

ordinance, said Bradley.

"We won on purely Constitutional grounds," he said. "There are people who will tell you the Constitution doesn't matter to ordinary people. The city council discovered that people do still care."

■ ILLINOIS

LP cheers conviction for political corruption

Libertarians are cheering the conviction of a key GOP operative who may have played a role in keeping LP candidates off the ballot.

On March 20, Scott Fawell was convicted of racketeering, mail fraud, and stealing state property. Fawell, who used to work for former Governor George Ryan, faces up to eight years in federal prison.

The campaign committee Fawell worked for — Citizens for Ryan — was also found guilty of using state employees to work on political campaigns. The charges involved illegal activity when Ryan served as Illinois secretary of state, before being

elected governor in 1998.

Libertarians — who have long charged that Ryan improperly used state employees to fraudulently keep a slate of LP candidates off the ballot in 1998 — said they "regret to have to say we told you so."

"It's about time they convicted George Ryan's campaign and Scott Fawell," said LP State Chair **Rhys Read**. "We at least can see some semblance of justice four years after we knew they were criminals."

In 1998, the Board of Elections invalidated 36,000 of the 61,000 signatures the LP collected to qualify eight candidates for the ballot, and then used state employees to fight the LP's challenge to that ruling.

■ INDIANA

Libertarians lobby, but city passes smoking law

The Bloomington City Council has approved a ban on smoking in public and most workplaces — dealing a blow to Libertarians who opposed the measure.

On April 28, the council voted 8-1 to approve the anti-smoking ordinance, despite the opposition of local businesses, Bloomington Businesses for the Preservation of Liberty, and the Monroe County LP.

Libertarians testified before the city council on two occasions, arguing that the ban was an unfunded mandate, that it deprived adults of choice, and that it infringed on private property rights.

"We support small business owners' rights to conduct their businesses intelligently," Monroe County LP Chair **Lisa Tennes** told the council. "They don't need one more regulation to add to the numerous laws they already have to contend with."

Despite the defeat, the Libertarians won friends with their lobbying effort, said Monroe County LP Press Secretary **Erin Hollinden**.

"Local business owners love us for it," she said. "We definitely defined the LP as their champion. I estimate we've won at least 100 new LP supporters from our efforts."

"It is likely that our city council will continue careening down the slippery slope to limit more and more private property rights. As they do, we are confident that more citizens will remember and appreciate how we Libertarians stood in defense of free will and fiscal constraint."

■ MICHIGAN

LP city councilman wins fight over tree control

South Haven City Councilman **Bill Bradley** has saved the trees — from the Parks Commission.

On March 17, Bradley convinced the city council to block a proposed ordinance that would have given the Parks Commission control over all trees in the city — even ones on private property. His motion to table the ordinance passed on a 4-3 vote.

"[It was my] first battle in the fight for individual property rights in Southwestern Michigan," he said.

The ordinance would have given the un-elected Parks Commission the power to "manage" trees.

"'Manage' is not defined in the

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ordinance, but as a practical matter, it is impossible for anyone to manage anything they do not control," said Bradley. "My guess is that this would be the same as with most laws — a foot in the door at first and a complete takeover later."

Bradley said he spent six minutes listing "item by item, various problems with the ordinance — including a conflict with the ordinance that originally created the Parks Commission itself."

With the vote, the city council reversed a vote it had taken on March 3. At that meeting, it supported the ordinance 5-1, with one absence.

"This was a distinct turnaround," said Bradley — and a victory in an ongoing "fight to halt government attacks on property rights."

Bradley, who was appointed to the South Haven City Council on January 2002, is also the Chair of the Van Buren County LP.

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

State Chair named to Efficiency Commission

The Libertarian Party's 2002 candidate for governor has been named to a new statewide commission that will work to cut government waste and spending.

John Babiarz, who also serves as New Hampshire LP State Chair, was named on March 20 by Republican Governor Craig Benson to serve on the state's new Efficiency Commission.

The commission has been assigned the task of examining state government, reviewing everything the state does, and determining ways to do it better, more efficiently, and at lower cost, said Babiarz.

"[I am] looking forward to working with the commission members in this important task," he said. "Governor Benson has indicated he will veto any tax increases. The commission will provide the guidance to keep state spending in check, so no tax increases will need to be considered."

The 15-member commission is scheduled to issue a report on June 1, 2003. It was created under authority of HB 171, which Benson signed into law on March 20.

"It takes great courage to reach outside of the party to do what is best for New Hampshire," said Babiarz. "Governor Benson showed that courage in making this appointment and [I am] willing and able to get the job done. Governor Benson and myself campaigned for reducing the cost of government. He means it, and so do I."

■ NEW YORK

Manhattan LP rallies against ban on smoking

Manhattan Libertarians took to the streets to conduct a "cigarette light" vigil to protest a new ban on smoking.

At midnight on March 29 — when a "draconian" citywide ban on smoking in bars took effect — Libertarians lit up outside the East 79th Street townhouse of Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

"This is exactly the type of legislation that a free society must regard



Hamilton County LP hosts outreach event in Chattanooga, Tennessee

■ The Hamilton County LP in Tennessee hosts an Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booth at a gun show in Chattanooga in early March.

Left: HCLP Chair Mike Croteau explains the World's Smallest Political Quiz to a passerby. Right: Croteau is interviewed by a reporter from the local Channel 3 television station.

At the event, about 140 people took the Quiz, with 38 of them scoring as libertarians, said Croteau.

"An OPH booth seeks out voters who are politically homeless, and offers them a new home within the Libertarian Party," he noted. "An OPH booth educates the general public about how politics are not accurately defined as left 'liberal' and right 'conservative.'"

"The Hamilton County party has been tremendously active in the past few months, and [they] have been fortunate to receive favorable media attention nearly every time they have executed a project," said Tennessee LP State Chair Ray Ledford.

with horror," said past LP Congressional candidate Joseph Dobrian, who organized the event. "It defies one of the basic principles on which America was founded: That you have the right to run your business as you see fit."

Libertarians lit up on the sidewalk to symbolize the 2 million New York smokers who "will be forced out of the bars and onto the city's sidewalks" because of the law, said Dobrian.

Jak Karako, former chair of the Manhattan LP, said, "We are on a very dangerous track when the government classifies private property as public space and starts making rules about it. This law is a clear violation of private property ownership."

Karako, who intends to run for City Council, said, if elected, he will introduce a motion to repeal the ban.

■ PENNSYLVANIA

Libertarians speak out for gun-toting teacher

The Libertarian Party of Allegheny County is supporting a teacher who may get fired for accidentally bringing a gun into school.

Teacher Anthony Sarkis is appealing a decision by the school board to dismiss him, after he took a loaded weapon into Shaler Area High School on February 24.

According to a report in the *Tribune-Review*, Sarkis put a loaded .380 handgun in a bag and later, forgetting the weapon was there, carried the bag to school. Another teacher saw the gun and called the police.

A misdemeanor criminal charge of possession of a weapon on school grounds was dismissed in March.

Sarkis has appealed the decision to fire him to the Shaler Area Education Association.

While many local residents say Sarkis should not be fired because he brought a "sense of humor and dedication" to teaching, the Allegheny

County Libertarians support him for a different reason.

"Common sense dictates that Sarkis be given another chance," said county Chair **Tim Crowley**. "If Sarkis loses his job, it will have a chilling effect on the rights of other teachers and other citizens to carry guns for any purpose."

■ VERMONT

Poll: State residents are sympathetic to liberty

Vermonters are surprisingly sympathetic to libertarian ideas, according to a poll conducted by the state Libertarian Party.

The Vermont LP surveyed about 1,500 state residents from 30 towns during Town Meeting Day on March 5.

"Voters want more personal control and less government regulation of health care, worry about the impact of the War on Terrorism on civil liberties, and support cuts in government programs as opposed to higher taxes," said Vermont LP State Chair **Brendan Kinney**. "These results are consistent with the party's limited government philosophy."

The unscientific survey found:

■ 67% say the state government "must spend less and tax less."

■ 68% say "individuals should be free to pick and choose those conditions and treatments they want" included in health insurance policies, rather than have the government mandate them.

■ 55% say all residents should have "publicly funded school choice."

■ 48% say the "War on Terrorism is eroding our civil liberties, such as

freedom of speech and privacy."

■ 49% say "bars should [be] free to set their own smoking policies."

"We are glad to see that so many Vermonters share our belief [in] greater liberty, less government interference, and enhanced personal responsibility," said Kinney.

■ WASHINGTON STATE

City okays protection from USA/Patriot Act

The Libertarian Party has helped convince the Bellingham City Council to pass a resolution that might protect residents from any USA/Patriot Act-inspired infringements on their Constitutional rights.

On March 24, the city council voted 4-3 to pass a policy that instructed city employees to notify the city's attorney if they receive a request from a federal agency that appears to violate the U.S. or Washington constitutions.

Employees would also be required to report to the city any electronic surveillance, monitoring of political or religious gatherings, or requests to inspect library records carried out under powers granted in the USA/Patriot Act.

If such actions appear to violate an individual's civil liberties, the city attorney could start legal proceedings to protect Bellingham residents.

The resolution was co-sponsored by the Whatcom County Libertarian Party, along with the ACLU, the county Green Party, the Whatcom Peace and Justice Center, and the Whatcom Human Rights Task Force.

Serving on the committee that

drafted the resolution was Whatcom LP member **Bruce Guthrie**, who noted that concerns about civil liberties are not just a "left" issue.

■ WISCONSIN

In three months, state membership grows 50%

The Wisconsin LP has increased its membership by more than 50% in three months, thanks to a concerted membership growth campaign.

Bucking a national trend of declining membership, the Wisconsin LP grew from 246 to 378 members since the beginning of January, reported LP Executive Director **Jeremy Keil**.

Of the 132 new members, 45 were lapsed members, 12 were inquiries, 15 joined at the state convention, and 45 came from a mailing to Ed Thompson's donor list, said Keil. Thompson was the LP's candidate for governor in 2002, winning 10.4%.

The state party wrote and called prospects and lapsed members, and sent a letter signed by Thompson to his campaign contributors.

"The main reason we have membership growth is because we asked people to join the party," said Keil.

With the increased membership strength, the state LP will now focus on money, organization, and campaigns, said Keil.

"We are currently increasing our fundraising ability and our memberships," he said. "Next we'll work on starting new county organizations. Then we'll work on recruiting candidates for the local campaigns and the [state] assembly."

■ WISCONSIN

LP fights bill to shove party off Election Board

The state LP is protesting an effort to kick the Libertarian representative off the state Elections Board.

Three months after Libertarian **Adam Dick** was sworn on to the board — a position earned by gubernatorial candidate **Ed Thompson's** 10.4% showing in the 2002 election — a Republican filed Senate Bill 11. If passed, the bill would eliminate the board's partisan seats, and have members appointed by the Republican-dominated state supreme court.

"The bill was filed because the politicians are reaching for anything they can to make it look like the electoral system isn't biased," said state LP Executive Director **Jeremy Keil**. "This will, in fact, make it even more partisan because it will hide the partisan leanings of its members."

About 40 people, including Libertarians and Greens, testified against the bill at a March 26 public hearing before the Senate Education, Ethics and Elections Committee. The Elections Board also passed a resolution, sponsored by Dick, recommending to the State Senate that the board be kept partisan.

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THE ISSUES

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

Don't fund Iraqi war with deficit spending

By funding the war in Iraq with deficit spending rather than program cuts, President Bush is piling one outrage on top of another, Libertarians say.

"If this war is as important as the president claims, why isn't he asking for a sacrifice from the government as well as from the people?" asked Geoffrey Neale, national LP Chairman. "If there's one thing worse than an unnecessary war, it's funding that war with borrowed money."

The deficit will increase dramatically if Congress approves the \$74.7 billion supplemental spending bill that Bush requested in March to fight the war in Iraq. The supplemental spending would be added to the record \$2.23 trillion budget planned for fiscal 2003.

Bush's request has Libertarians asking: If U.S. troops can sacrifice their lives for the war effort, can't Democrats and Republicans sacrifice a few of their favorite government programs?

"Bush's request of \$75 billion represents just one-thirtieth of the overall federal budget," Neale said. "Since there are literally thousands of wasteful, unnecessary federal programs, cutting one out of every 30 should be easy."

One example is corporate welfare, which costs U.S. taxpayers \$125 billion annually — nearly twice as much as Bush requested for the war, noted Neale. "Does the president believe that funneling money to corporate fat cats is more important than supporting U.S. troops in Iraq?"

Federal funds and discrimination don't mix

The University of Michigan should reject federal funds rather than hope the Supreme Court will uphold their admissions policies, the Libertarian Party says.

"Most Americans find racial discrimination repugnant — and that's exactly why they shouldn't have to subsidize it," said Geoffrey Neale. "If the University of Michigan insists on keeping its race-based policy, it should forgo federal money."

In arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court in early April, the University of Michigan insisted that its undergraduate and law schools should be able to consider race as a criteria for student admissions.

Currently, African-American, Latino or Native American undergraduate applicants receive a 20-point bonus on the school's 150-point "selection index." The school gives such students special consideration to ensure that there is a "critical mass" of minorities.

The court's decision, expected by July, could have a profound impact on colleges around the country, because most accept some form of federal aid — and federal law forbids racial discrimination by institutions that receive federal money.

But regardless of what the court decides, Libertarians are suggesting a free-market solution that should satisfy both sides of the debate: Use only voluntary contributions, rather than tax money, to fund colleges that employ racial favoritism.

Iraqi job plan is nation-building gone wild

A plan to put one out of every 10 Iraqis on the U.S. government's payroll is nation-building gone haywire, Libertarians say.

"Hold onto your wallets, because the U.S. government is going on a hiring binge — in Iraq," said Geoffrey Neale. "If George Bush has his way, Iraqis will soon be free from Saddam Hussein but hopelessly dependent on Uncle Sam."

Part of the U.S. government's blueprint for rebuilding Iraq, unveiled at a Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing in March, is paying the salaries of at least 2 million government workers, including soldiers, teachers, police officers, hospital workers and bureaucrats.

The hope is that making the Iraqis accountable to the U.S. would help deliver "a measure of normalcy and stability" after the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein. In a nation of 23 million people, that means roughly one out of every 10 Iraqis would be getting a paycheck from the U.S. taxpayer, observed Neale.

But even Americans who support the war probably had no intention of creating a massive warfare-to-work program, Libertarians note.

"People who accused Bill Clinton of nation-building for handing out food in Somalia should be appalled that Bush is handing out 2 million jobs in Iraq," he said. "It's bad enough when politicians put Americans on the dole, but creating massive workfare programs halfway around the world is nation-building gone haywire."

San Diego LP wins another round in dueling tax initiatives lawsuit

San Diego Libertarians have won another round in a complicated court case over dueling ballot propositions.

On March 7, San Diego Superior Court Judge J. Richard Haden ruled that Proposition E — an initiative passed in 2002 that requires a two-thirds vote to approve any tax increase — is constitutional.

The ruling was a defeat for the city government, which had requested a summary judgment striking down Prop. E.

San Diego County LP Chair Ed Teyssier — who has been leading the legal battle for Prop. E, along with the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association — said the ruling was a "great win" for city taxpayers.

"Assuming that this ruling stands, thinking at City Hall will have to dramatically change," he said. "Instead of routinely spending us into a financial hole and then imposing higher taxes, the control of city spending has shifted to the voters of the city."

"For politicians, limited funding will be the order of the day. [That's] a novel experience for the spendthrifts at City Hall."

In his ruling, Hayden wrote that Prop. E does not conflict with Article XIII of the California constitution — which, he noted, sets a floor, not a ceiling, on the majority needed to approve a tax increase.

Protect citizens

"Because the constitution is written to protect citizens from the abuses of government, rather than protecting government from its citizens, Article XIII is a prohibition against taxes, not an authorization for taxes," the judge wrote.

Hayden also ruled that Prop. E did not conflict with Article XI, Section 3 of the California constitution.

Hayden's ruling is part of a year-long battle over the dueling propositions — Prop. E and Prop. F — that ended up in court after San Diego voters passed two initiatives during the same March 2002 election.

The first, Proposition E, called the "Taxpayer Protection Act of 2000," passed with 54.3% of the vote. It required the support of two-thirds of San Diego voters before any new tax could be levied or any existing tax raised. It was sponsored by a citizens' anti-tax group.

The second, Proposition F, passed with a scant 50.14% of the vote. Backed by the city council, it amended the city charter to require that any revenue-related initiative be approved by two-thirds of voters.

"Obviously, Proposition F was created by the city council as a poison pill to oppose Proposition E," said Teyssier. "It's political hardball."

The city council certified Prop. F, arguing that its two-thirds requirement meant that Prop. E failed, since it got only 54% of the vote.

In response, Teyssier and the

"FOR POLITICIANS, limited funding will be the order of the day. [That's] a novel experience for City Hall spendthrifts."

—Ed Teyssier

Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association filed a lawsuit in April 2002.

"[We] filed a lawsuit to force the city council to obey the law," he said.

In the lawsuit, Teyssier argued that the city council did not have the authority to amend its own charter under California law.

In addition, in the case of conflicting ballot initiatives, California law states that the initiative which receives the higher vote is the one that becomes law, he noted.

Violated constitution

In August 2002, the San Diego Superior Court ruled that Proposition E should be in force, and that the city's decision to approve Prop. F violated the California constitution.

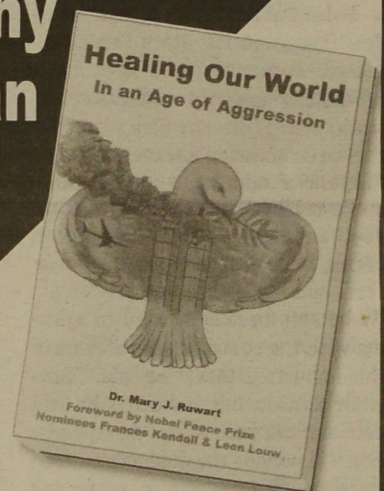
The city appealed that ruling, and filed for a summary judgment to strike down Prop. E on constitutional grounds, which led to the March 7 court ruling.

Even with the new victory, Teyssier said he expects the city will continue to fight to overturn Prop. E.

"Their goal [is] nothing less than thwarting the very rights of citizens whom they took an oath to uphold," he said.

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Platform Committee works on 'reformatting'

Continued from Page 3

Squyres. While not yet available, that website "should be up and running very soon," he said.

Of the Platform's 61 planks, "about a dozen" have been reformatted, said Squyres.

"We hope to have the initial reformatting completed by summer [2003], so that there is plenty of time for the general membership to review it, comment on the changes, and offer their input," he said.

Final approval

After LP members provide input — and after the committee reaches consensus on each of the reformatted planks — final approval of all changes will be in the hands of delegates at the party's 2004 national convention, to be held in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Platform Special Committee is now working to parse every Platform issue into four elements, said Squyres:

■ **The Issue:** "[For example], it is the lack of properly stating the drug issue that allows a Republican to stand up and scream at our candidates, 'You people want to legalize heroin!'" he said.

"Correctly framed, the issue is that Prohibition never stopped anyone from drinking alcohol, it only created Al Capone. Properly framing the issue allows Libertarians to control the debate."

■ **Principle:** "If we are to be the party of principle, then we must not only be able to state that principle clearly, but we must also be able to show anyone, a tradesman or a CEO, exactly how that principle applies to a particular issue," he said.

"We have to be able to deliver [our] principle on any given issue, in a realistic way that ordinary people can relate to and believe in. And we must do this in a very few, but effective, words."

■ **Solutions:** "By stating our solution to the issue, we present a detailed view of the Libertarian world we seek, and by presenting the transition to that world we must state the exact steps we would take to get there, as well as the steps we have already taken," he said. "These latter satisfy both the destination and the direction concerns."

■ **Transitions:** "The transition section is where we stand up and show the first step towards the better world we see, the direction we want to go, and the steps we have already taken," he said.

No practical steps

In the current Platform, said Squyres, "we have already seen planks where there is no language that states the issue. We have seen planks where there is only a picture of a Libertarian world, yet no practical steps showing how we would get there."

"Much of the language we have is emotional ranting or complaining, rather than concisely doing the job it is supposed to do. It is such lan-

Current Plank

We believe that families and households are private institutions, which should be free from government intrusion and interference. We believe that government involvement in traditional parenting responsibilities has weakened families and replaced family-taught morals with government-taught morals.

Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, without interference by government, unless they are abusing the children. We recognize that the determination of child abuse can be very difficult. Only local courts should be empowered to remove a child from his or her home, with the consent of the community. This is not meant to preclude appropriate action when a child is in immediate physical danger.

Because parents have these rights, a child may not be able to fully exercise his or her rights in the context of family life. However, children always have the right to establish their maturity by assuming administration and protection of their own rights, ending dependency upon their parents or other guardians, and assuming all responsibilities of adulthood.

Parents have no right to abandon or recklessly endanger their children. Whenever they are unable or unwilling to raise their children, they have the obligation to find other person(s) willing to assume guardianship. Accordingly, we oppose all laws that impede these processes, notably those restricting private adoption services. In particular, we call for the repeal of all laws restricting transracial adoption.

A child is a human being and, as such, deserves to be treated justly. We oppose laws infringing on children's rights to work or learn, such as child labor laws and compulsory education laws. We also oppose the use of curfews based on age.

We call for an end to the practice in many states of jailing children not accused of any crime. We call for repeal of all "children's codes" or statutes which abridge due process protections for young people.

guage that causes many of our members to bemoan a platform that is verbose [and] boring."

The reformatting project will also allow the Platform Special Committee to create a standard format that can be applied to new Platform planks in the future, said Squyres.

"In 10 years, issues will arise that will require a future Platform committee to write new planks to address those issues," he said. "What would we want that committee to be required to do in order to write a good plank?"

"If their job is merely to come up with a page full of language that is more rant and emotion than substance and logic, they will not produce anything less vulnerable to the current criticisms and faults. If, instead, that committee has a rigorous

Reformatted Plank: Existing Language Only

(**The Issue:**) We believe that government involvement in traditional parenting responsibilities has weakened families and replaced family-taught morals with government-taught morals.

(**The Principle:**) We believe that families and households are private institutions, which should be free from government intrusion and interference. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, without interference by government, unless they are abusing the children.

(**Libertarian Solutions:**) Parents have no right to abandon or recklessly endanger their children. Whenever they are unable or unwilling to raise their children, they have the obligation to find other person(s) willing to assume guardianship. Accordingly, we oppose all laws that impede these processes, notably those restricting private adoption services. In particular, we call for the repeal of all laws restricting transracial adoption.

Because parents have these rights, a child may not be able to fully exercise his or her rights in the context of family life. However, children always have the right to establish their maturity by assuming administration and protection of their own rights, ending dependency upon their parents or other guardians, and assuming all responsibilities of adulthood.

A child is a human being and, as such, deserves to be treated justly. We oppose laws infringing on children's rights to work or learn, such as child labor laws and compulsory education laws. We also oppose the use of curfews based on age.

We call for an end to the practice in many states of jailing children not accused of any crime. We call for repeal of all "children's codes" or statutes which abridge due process protections for young people.

(**Libertarian Action/Transition:**) We recognize that the determination of child abuse can be very difficult. Only local courts should be empowered to remove a child from his or her home, with the consent of the community. This is not meant to preclude appropriate action when a child is in immediate physical danger.

format that they must follow in the writing of any plank, then and only then will they produce a platform that does the job of presenting the Libertarian position, without controversy or vulnerability."

Committee members

The Platform Special Committee consists of Mike Dixon (NC), Dean Ahmad (MD), Lorenzo Gaztanaga (MD), Michael Gilson de Lemos (FL), Henry Haller (PA), Sean Haugh (NC), Ed Hoch (AK), Erin Hollinden (IN), Robert Murphy (OK), George Squyres (AZ), Joe Hauptmann (IN), Mark Schreiber (IN), Wayne Nygren (CA), Dan Nafe (FL), Steve Hoffman (GA), Austin Hough (IL), Keith Edwards (MI), Bonnie Scott (NY), Norma Skoog (OH), Julian Heicklen (PA), Robert Restivo (TX), and Greg Clark (WA).

Reformatted Plank: Suggested Language Additions

[Note: Suggested language is in *italics*.]

(**The Issue:**) We believe that government involvement in traditional parenting responsibilities has weakened families and replaced family-taught morals with government-taught morals. *We condemn the power of state agencies to arbitrarily intervene in families and impose state mandated conditions on either children or parents. We condemn the attitude of state bureaucrats that they know best the running of individual families. The creation of a child is an obligation on the parent that exists whether there is a marriage or not, and only in cases of abdication of that responsibility should the state be allowed to enforce the rights of the child against a parent.*

(**The Principle:**) We believe that families and households are private institutions, which should be free from government intrusion and interference. Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, without interference by government, unless they are abusing the children. *Protection of the rights of parents to run their families must be given equal importance along with the welfare of children, and only in cases of hard evidence of clear and present danger should government intervention be tolerated. Conversely, if a parent, custodial or otherwise, avoids or seeks to abdicate that responsibility, whether by divorce or fleeing, the state should enforce the individual's obligation to fulfill their responsibilities to their child.*

(**Libertarian Solutions:**) Parents have no right to abandon or recklessly endanger their children. Whenever they

are unable or unwilling to raise their children, they have the obligation to find other person(s) willing to assume guardianship. *This does not relieve the parent of their obligation to their child, for if the guardian becomes unwilling or unable, the obligation is still the parent's, except in cases of legal adoption. Deadbeat parents — dads or mothers — are not acceptable.* Accordingly, we oppose all laws that impede these processes, notably those restricting private adoption services. In particular, we call for the repeal of all laws restricting transracial adoption. Because parents have these rights, a child may not be able to fully exercise his or her rights in the context of family life. However, children always have the right to establish their maturity by assuming administration and protection of their own rights, ending dependency upon their parents or other guardians, and assuming all responsibilities of adulthood. A child is a human being and, as such, deserves to be treated justly. We oppose laws infringing on children's rights to work or learn, such as child labor laws and compulsory education laws. We also oppose the use of curfews based on age. We call for an end to the practice in many states of jailing children not accused of any crime. We call for repeal of all "children's codes" or statutes which abridge due process protections for young people.

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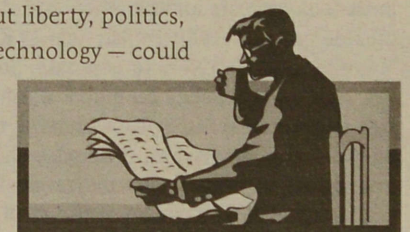
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THE REVIEW

Global warming heresy

■ **Taken by Storm: The Troubled Science, Policy and Politics of Global Warming** by Christopher Essex and Ross McKittrick. 320 pages, paperback. \$26.95 (Canadian) Published by Key Porter Books. To order, visit: www.takenbystorm.info/.

Reviewed by Terry Francl

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION

Taken by Storm should be required reading for anyone — including the media and politicians — who wishes either to discuss or to develop policy concerning global warming.

The authors are eminently qualified. Dr. Christopher Essex is a professor at the University of Western Ontario, specializing in the underlying mathematics, physics, and computation of complex dynamic processes such as climate. Dr. Ross McKittrick is an associate professor at the University of Guelph, specializing in the application of economic analysis to environmental policy and climate change.

Essex and McKittrick open their analysis by outlining what they describe as the "Doctrine of Certainty." The Doctrine has nine not-to-be-questioned assertions:

1. The Earth is warming. 2. Warming has already been observed.
3. Humans are causing it. 4. All but a handful of scientists on the fringe believe it. 5. Warming is bad. 6. Action is required immediately. 7. Any action is better than none. 8. Claims of uncertainty in the science merely cover up the ulterior motives of individuals aiming to stop needed action. 9. Those who defend claims of uncertainty are bad people.

Each of the assertions, Essex and McKittrick note, is either false or the claim to know it is false.

Having established the Doctrine that drives global warming alarmists, Essex and McKittrick go on to refute the claim of human-induced global warming. They make a key point: the data said to prove "global temperature" have little, if any, scientific meaning.

Temperature and climate, they point out, are local phenomena, and there is no way to develop a weighted, meaningful average of world or global temperature. They note historical temperature records are largely Northern Hemisphere measurements. Local temperature records do not conform to the rigorous requirements generally assigned to the collection of scientific data. For example, because collection sites tend to be located near large urban populations, they are moved from time to time as populations expand. The temperature record is tainted precisely because dense populations — and the infrastructure that serves them — have an "urban heat island" effect that skews the data.

In addition, land accounts for only 30% of the Earth's mass. Note Essex and McKittrick, "global temperature cannot enter the front door of scientific discourse because it makes no physical sense; it has snuck in a semantic backdoor when no one was looking."

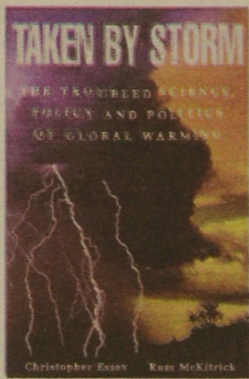
Essex and McKittrick turn next to the alleged solution to global warming: the Kyoto Protocol. They sum up the key problems associated with the Kyoto Protocol: 1. Its goals and results cannot physically be defined or measured. 2. It is inherently unstable and unenforceable. 3. Economic leakages will offset up to half its effects, even if everyone is honest. 4. If parties begin cheating, it is almost impossible to audit them, let alone force them to stop.

In concluding, the authors offer these observations: As to the question of whether we would "want" to change the climate, we must look at costs and benefits. The steps that involve carbon dioxide emission reductions (such as Kyoto) cost more than any benefits they are likely to generate. So they are not worth taking.

So the best policy on global warming is to make sure science is free to investigate it, without having to prove that this or that is relevant to policy issues. Otherwise the best policy is to do nothing unless further information indicates otherwise.

Taken By Storm is one of the most comprehensive and readable publications on the topic of global warming currently available.

■ **About the reviewer:** Terry Francl is a senior economist for the American Farm Bureau Federation. A longer version of this review appeared in the Heartland Institute's *Environment & Climate News*, March 2003. Visit: www.Heartland.org.



Phone calls from the 'governor' are designed to boost party membership

Voters in California have been getting phone calls from Governor Gray Davis telling them they "can't trust those Libertarians" — and urging them to stay away from the DumpGrayDavis.com website.

Except it's not really the governor.

It's longtime Libertarian Richard Boddie impersonating the governor.

The phone calls are part of the California LP's campaign to recall the governor — and, more importantly, to build the party, said California LP State Chair Aaron Starr.

"Since there is already a recall effort underway, we're just riding the coattails to take advantage of it," he said. "Our main interest with this campaign is to get new members to join the party."

In February, at its annual convention, the California LP passed a resolution endorsing an effort to recall Davis. The Democrat, now serving his second term, has been criticized by the state party for reckless spending, for signing an "assault weapons" ban, and for stalling legislation to implement a proposition that legalized medical marijuana.

Supporters are now working to collect the 897,158 signatures required to qualify the recall question for the ballot.

To support the effort, the California LP's phone call blitz will try to convince voters to visit the DumpGrayDavis.com website, where they can download a recall petition.



■ **California LP State Chair Aaron Starr: "Our main interest is to get new members to join the party."**

Using an autodialer and a pre-recorded message, the California LP hopes to call 8,000 to 10,000 people per day, said Starr. The project started on April 7, and is costing about \$4,000 a month.

The message — designed to be heard by a live pick-up or left on an answering machine — states:

"This is Governor Gray Davis urging you to *not* support the recall against me. Stay away from DumpGrayDavis.com.

"So I lied to you about California's \$34 billion budget shortfall. I'm a politician. Duh! So I want to triple your car tax. Big deal! I'll spend your money better than you. And I gave

campaign contributors six-figure salaries — at your expense — during the state's hiring freeze. So what?!

"DumpGrayDavis.com is backed by the Libertarian Party. They want to reduce your taxes. They want honest government. They believe you can run your life better than I can. You can't trust those Libertarians. Stay away from DumpGrayDavis.com. And do not call the Libertarian Party at their toll-free number..."

Serious message

The message is designed to amuse voters — while conveying a serious message about the LP, said Starr.

"When people hear [Gray's] reasoning for not supporting us, they'll realize that this is precisely why they should support us," he said.

At DumpGrayDavis.com, visitors can also join the Libertarian Party or make a contribution, said Starr.

"We'll be testing different messages on different days to see what works. If we can find an approach that works we can expand the capacity of the equipment to as many as 60,000 calls per day."

Starr stressed that the project — scheduled to last four months — is still in the "testing phase," with no guarantee that it will work.

"By its very nature, this is a speculative venture, though I believe the risk-reward ratio is favorable," he said. "I'm hoping that we'll be able to report some good news over the months to come."

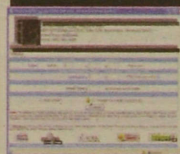


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"Excellent! Very well done!"



The right tone and attitude in all respects. Finally the Libertarian Party is leaving adolescence in favor of maturity."
— Louis Dooley, Ocala, Florida

The Libertarian Viewpoint — a 8-page, full-color outreach newspaper! Ideal for leaving at your local coffeehouse, supermarket, student union building, or community center. Contains articles on corporate welfare, crime, poverty, foreign policy, and more — along with brief "Fact Files" that offer fascinating soundbites, factoids, and perspectives. Add to that some glowing media quotes about the Libertarian Party and full-color photographs, and you have a professional-looking, eye-catching newspaper that asks readers to "imagine a better America." Includes a membership response form.
Sample: \$1 each ★ 100 for \$25 ★ 1,000 for \$100 ★ Call for prices for bulk quantities (5,000+) All prices include free shipping.

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"A New Vision for America" — a new kind of Libertarian outreach. Printed in full color, with gorgeous photographs of Libertarians in action. It takes a warm, human approach — telling true stories that illustrate Libertarian principles, and asking readers to "imagine a better America" of prosperity, tolerance, and freedom. In 24 pages, this booklet features compelling and readable sections on health care, government waste, education, the environment, and taxes. Put it to work recruiting new Libertarians who share our vision!
Sample: \$1 ea. ★ 100 for \$25



LP Literature & Books

■ **Why Government Doesn't Work** by Harry Browne. The 1996 Presidential campaign manifesto: Explains why government doesn't work, and why it will never work as well as voluntary solutions. Outlines a Libertarian plan for victory. Hardbound, 245 pages. **Cost: \$11.95**

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost: \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.**

■ **Which Political Party is 100% Pro-Gun Rights?** Full-page flyer. 2-color (red & blue). Hard-hitting defense of the Second Amendment, designed especially for the gun community. Explains why the LP will never betray gun owners — unlike the Republican Party, which constantly sells them out. **Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$7 for 100**

■ **America's Libertarian Heritage** by David Bergland. 16-page booklet. Concise overview of Libertarian philosophy and solutions in an easy-to-read question-and-answer format. **Cost: \$1 each**

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending — and points out that the federal government spends more than \$1 million every five seconds. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100**

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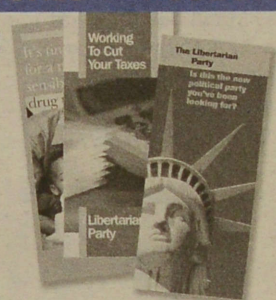


2-COLOR

- Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again
- Ending the Welfare State
- What Happened To Your Family Budget?
- Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners

4-COLOR!

- Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?
- Working to Cut Your Taxes
- It's Time for a More Sensible Drug Policy



2-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$7 for 100 / 4-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$10 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2000: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2000) and a comprehensive two-page bibliography (featuring more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost: Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100**

■ **World's Smallest Political Quiz cards.** Perfect for "politically homeless" booths. **Cost: \$1 for 100**

Bumperstickers

\$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100. Size: 11" x 3"

■ **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN** (Red, white, & blue).

■ **I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!** (Red, white, & blue.)

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

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

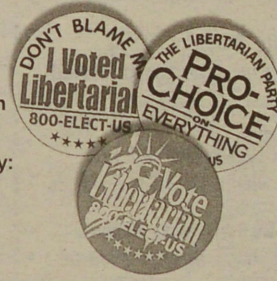
Buttons

Cost: \$1 each; \$7.50 for 10; \$50 for 100

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-ELECT-US



Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. Includes everything from creating a campaign timeline, deciding on issues, raising money, working with volunteers, dealing with the media, and organizing a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. A must read! **Cost: \$3.00 each**

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo master.** Camera-ready sheet, ready for scanning. **Cost: \$1 each**

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3-1/2 inch DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost: \$3 each**

■ **Newsprint Ads:** "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty." Camera-ready print ads. One each of six different ads: General, lifestyle, drugs, guns, draft, and taxes. Plus additional multi-sized "Lower Taxes/More Freedom" LP advertisements. **Cost: \$3 for set**

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■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You can pick the second line from these two choices: "800-ELECT-US" or "Defenders of Liberty." (Specify which you want on the order form.) **Cost: \$40 each**

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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH / VOTE LIBERTARIAN. Red, white, & blue on sturdy foamboard. Measures a big 24" x 18". Perfect for campaigns. **Cost: \$8.00 each.**

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| _____ | _____ | Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State" |
| _____ | _____ | Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again" |
| _____ | _____ | Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners" |
| _____ | _____ | OUT OF STOCK Brochure: "100% Pro-Gun Rights?" |
| _____ | _____ | America's Libertarian Heritage booklet |
| _____ | _____ | Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package) |
| _____ | _____ | World's Smallest Political Quiz |
| _____ | _____ | "Million Dollar Bill" Literature |

Bumper Stickers

- | | |
|-------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ | Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian |
| _____ | I'm Pro-Choice on Everything! |
| _____ | ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN |
| _____ | Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US |

Banners

- | | |
|-------|---|
| _____ | "LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" h x 5' w) |
| _____ | Please check preferred second line: |
| _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Defenders of Liberty <input type="checkbox"/> 1-800-ELECT-US |

Yard Signs

- | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------|
| _____ | ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian |
|-------|-----------------------------------|

Tools for Campaigning

- | | |
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| _____ | Libertarian Political Action Booklet |
| _____ | Statue of Liberty logo master |
| _____ | LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk |
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- | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|
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| _____ | By Harry Browne |
| _____ | Libertarianism In One Lesson |
| _____ | By David Bergland |

Buttons

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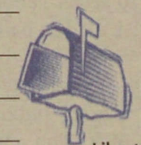
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POLITICS 2003

Stossel's book and a rare Hollywood type

■ In Wisconsin, 2002 gubernatorial candidate **Ed Thompson** was elected State Chair. In New Mexico, **Shawn Price** was re-elected Chair of the Socorro County LP. In Massachusetts, **Kay Pirrello** has been named executive director. In New Jersey, **Emerson Ellett** was re-elected State Chair at the state convention, where three county Chairs were also selected: **Ray Cragle** (Mercer County), **Robert Hull** (Monmouth County), and **Howard Schoen** (Somerset/Middlesex counties). In California, **Aaron Starr** was re-elected for another two-year term as State Chair.

■ **Miscellaneous:** ABC 20/20 commentator **John Stossel** is working on a book he hopes to publish in early 2004. The book will expand on the themes and topics of his specials and his popular "Give Me a Break" segments. It will be published by Harper Collins. The website, aWorldConnected.org, is offering a \$5,000 first prize for the essay that best answers the question: "Why are some countries rich while others remain poor? How does globalization contribute to the wealth or poverty of nations?" The contest is open to college students (25 and under). Hurry: the deadline is May 1, 2003. For contest rules, visit: www.aWorldConnected.org.

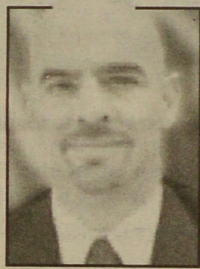
■ In Nevada, Libertarians are commemorating the March 2 death of **Dan Becan**, a founder of the Nevada LP, former State Chair, and Korean War veteran. In Arizona, **Ernie Hancock** is hosting a two-hour daily show (7:00 am-9:00 am) called "Declare Your Independence" on KXAM Radio (AM 1310) in Phoenix. In California, **Linda Lee Grau** has taken an interesting career detour after winning 7.7% of the vote in a race for Irvine City Council in 2002 — she's become a comedienne. Deciding to "laugh rather than cry about the council race loss," she took a seven-week comedy class, and made her official comedy debut at the Irvine Improv on March 11.

■ **Campaign news:** In Florida, in a two-way special election to fill a vacant seat in the State House (District 30) in Brevard County on March 25, Libertarian **Bruce Wechsler** won 3,087 votes (28%). In Kansas, **Carl Kramer** is running for mayor of Wichita and **Larry Manes** is a candidate for Allen County Community College Trustee. In Indiana, over 20 Marion County libertarians have signed up to run in the November 2003 election. In Texas, **Richard ("Chip") Peterson**, a former finance professor at Texas Tech, will be running in a May 4 special election for U.S. House (District 19). Peterson is the author of *The Real Social Security Problem: What Everyone Must Know Before It's too Late*. In Illinois, Libertarian **David Kelley** (candidate for Rockford School Board, District 205) was endorsed by the *Rockford Register-Star* and the *Rock River Times*. The *Register-Star* said Kelley "thinks serious reform is needed and will bring new ideas to the table." Kelley went on to win his April 1 election.

■ **Miscellaneous:** Online versions (in .pdf) of **Ludwig von Mises's** two classic works, *Socialism* and *Human Action*, have been posted at www.capitalism.net. In Hollywood, another motion picture industry figure says he's a libertarian. **Sam Longoria**, a producer, writer, director, and cinematographer who worked on *Ghostbusters*, *The Abyss*, *Die Hard*, and *Dante's Peak*, told the *Everett Herald* in Washington state that, politically, he is "a very rare type in Hollywood. I'm not a conservative, and I'm not a liberal," he said. "[I'm a] libertarian."

■ **Politics:** The Green Party has won some major victories lately — including the election of one state legislator in November 2002 and the defection from the Democrats in 2003 of another one — but now they've suffered a major blow. In March, the Utah Green Party disbanded, and its leaders joined the Democratic Party en masse.

■ **Media news:** In Colorado, the *Denver Post* has weighed in against a bill that would make it more difficult for small parties to run candidates. In an editorial on March 5, the newspaper charged that HB 1142, which would force minor parties to conduct expensive primaries to select candidates, is an attempt by Republicans to "force third parties off the ballot." In language that would make a Libertarian smile, the Post wrote: "Politicians who rig the system aren't the lesser of two evils. They're just evil." Florida Libertarian **M. Elizabeth Dick** had an essay published in the April 7 issue of *Newsweek* magazine. Dick, who opposes the war in Iraq, said her anti-war activity is "muted" now that she is no longer the "budding radical" she was at age 22 during first Gulf War. Although she feels "less and less of the righteous anger that used to fuel" her activism, Dick noted that she still does "volunteer work as a member of the local Libertarian Party and plans to run for city commissioner in two years."



■ **Bruce Wechsler:** Special election.

Libertarian viewpoints on the U.S. invasion of Iraq

Continued from Page 1

Germany after World War II, and we still have troops there. The assumption is we'll get out quicker this time. But we had the same intention then. Paying for all this will fall on the heavy-laden American taxpayer.

Journalist Randolph Bourne, reflecting on the experience of World War I, wrote that "war is the health of the state." He knew that nothing is so sure to fatten the federal leviathan.

■ **Steve Chapman** is a nationally syndicated columnist. Reprinted from: www.creators.com.

More skeptical

By **Harry Browne**
(January 29 & March 19, 2003)

We know that politicians lie. They've lied to us about Social Security, about the projected costs of Medicare, about surpluses that never existed, about the Gulf War, about enough matters to fill an encyclopedia.

The fact that we're now talking about national security shouldn't cause us to have more faith in government and politicians. Quite the contrary: because it's our lives that are at stake, we should be more skeptical than ever.

[I am sometimes asked]: "But what would you do about Iraq? Would you trust a known liar like Saddam Hussein? How would you get Hussein to disarm?"

I wouldn't even try — any more than I'd try to disarm Israel or China or Pakistan or India or Korea. Not one of those countries, including Iraq, has tried to attack us.

America's entry into World War I "to make the world safe for democracy" caused the war to last an extra year, allowed the communists to come to power in Russia, allowed Adolf Hitler to come to power in Germany, and laid the groundwork for World War II.

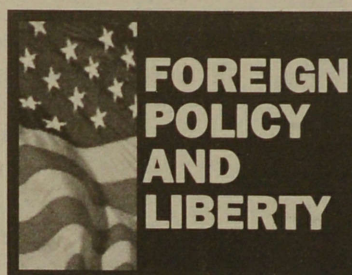
Our government's attempts to fight communism or spread democracy around the world have caused millions of innocent people to die in Iran, Indonesia, Iraq, Panama, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Grenada, Cambodia, and many other countries. All the good intentions in the world are little comfort to the people buried prematurely all over the globe.

What I want is for our government:

To quit pretending it knows what's best for other countries.

To quit inciting terrorists by backing coups and dictatorial regimes.

To quit generating hostility by bribing foreign governments to allow



American troops to be stationed in a hundred countries.

To quit giving our money to foreign countries — no matter whose side they're on.

■ **Harry Browne** was the 1996 and 2000 presidential candidate of the Libertarian Party. Reprinted from: www.HarryBrowne.org.

No imminent threat

By **Ted Galen Carpenter**
(February 2, 2003)

President George W. Bush and the White House's pro-war allies in the media routinely cite an array of reasons a U.S. military campaign to overthrow Saddam Hussein is a good idea.

There is no doubt that Saddam is a murderous tyrant. But that characteristic does not distinguish him from

IF OVERTHROWING A dictator is sufficient reason for the U.S. to go to war, one must ask how many other holy crusades are in our future.

several dozen other rulers around the world. If overthrowing a dictator is sufficient reason for the United States to go to war, one must ask how many other holy crusades are in our future.

When does the United States attack North Korea's Kim Jong Il, Cuba's Fidel Castro, Sudan's genocidal slave-masters, or Burma's murderous military junta — to name just a few of the world's most odious regimes?

[Supporters of the war argue]: If we do not oust Saddam, Iraq will someday use its weapons of mass destruction to blackmail the United States.

The United States successfully deterred the likes of Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong — two brutal and erratic rulers. And those dictators possessed nuclear, not just chemical and biological, weapons. The pro-war faction has never explained why the United States cannot deter a garden-variety

thug like Saddam Hussein.

Going to war is serious business. The issue is not whether Iraq has complied with U.N. resolutions. The issue is not whether the Iraqi people would be better off without Saddam Hussein. The issue is not even whether Iraq possesses chemical or biological weapons.

The only pertinent issue is whether Iraq poses a serious, imminent threat to the United States, thereby justifying pre-emptive war. The pro-war camp has utterly failed to make the case that Iraq poses such a threat.

■ **Ted Galen Carpenter** is vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at the Cato Institute. Reprinted from: www.cato.org.

Graveyard of ambition

By **Justin Raimondo**
(March 24, 2003)

Up until Saturday our "embedded" media was projecting images of Iraqis dancing in the desert at the arrival of their "liberators," but by Sunday morning the edges were already beginning to fray around the official story.

The U.S. media kept showing feel-good agit-prop as long as they could. We were treated to endless repetitions of a portly Iraqi and a bunch of kids bouncing up and down with glee as a U.S. soldier ripped down a portrait of Saddam in the border town of Safwan.

Not so fast. By Sunday, reality was breaking through, and Reuters was reporting the "liberation" of Safwan somewhat differently:

"As the convoy of British tanks and trucks rolled by, the Iraqi boys on the side of the road were all smiles and waves. But once it had passed, leaving a trail of dust and grit in its wake, their smiles turned to scowls. 'We don't want them here,' said 17-year-old Fouad.

"He pulled a piece of paper from the waistband of his trousers. Unfolding it, he held up a picture of Saddam Hussein. 'Saddam is our leader. Saddam is good,' he said defiantly, looking again at his well-worn picture showing the Iraqi leader with a benign smile, sitting on a majestic throne."

For the first few days, we saw only sanitized images of a clean, hassle-free war, amid hints of a winged victory beckoning in the near future. But that is fast giving way to the gritty reality of the quagmire we are falling into.

It is a war that cannot be won, even if "victory" is declared: in the long run, we will be driven out of the Middle East, just as the Marines

See **IRAQ** Page 15



Ten libertarian perspectives on the Iraqi war

Continued from Page 14

were driven out of Beirut, just as the British were driven out, and the Crusaders before them. The quicksands of that volatile region will be the graveyard of America's imperial ambition.

■ **Justin Raimondo** is a senior fellow at the Center for Libertarian Studies and the editorial director of *Antiwar.com*. Reprinted from: www.antiwar.com.

■ He idolizes Stalin

Neal Boortz

(March 12, 18, & 19, 2003)

We face a new threat. Small-time dictators with evil designs and big-time weapons. The United States wants to make it known that these small-time dictators will not be allowed to threaten peace and international stability with their weapons of mass destruction.

Former U.S. Middle East envoy Lawrence Eagleberger made a very good point recently as to just why Saddam Hussein presents a threat to the safety and security of the United States. Eagleberger points out that "terrorists do not make weapons of mass destruction. States do."

This would mean that terrorists don't have the means to produce the chemical, biological, and even nuclear weapons they would like to use against America. A nation would have those resources. A nation like Iraq. The solution? Crystal clear.

The real pity is that the United States and Great Britain, with some help from a group of willing allies, have to go this alone against Saddam Hussein.

Here is a man who idolizes Stalin. He murders tens of thousands with poison gas. He gouges the eyes out of children to teach lessons to their parents. He builds weapons of mass destruction and secrets them for some future purpose. He defies demands from the international community to disarm and behave.

Then, when push finally comes to shove, much of the world takes a powder. Pathetic.

■ **Neal Boortz** is a nationally syndicated radio talk show host. Reprinted from: www.boortz.com.

■ Less freedom at home

By Ron Paul

(March 10, 2003)

War has many costs, both human and economic, that must be carefully considered. The greatest cost of war, of course, is the cost in human lives. But the economic costs of war must also be considered.

Inflation is certain during wartime, as the Treasury prints more money to fund military expenses. Furthermore, taxes or deficits necessarily rise when the nation's productivity falls because of war. Estimates of war spending [in Iraq] range from \$100 billion to \$200 billion, a figure that does not include tens of billions needed for nation-building in Afghanistan and Iraq.



The greatest economic cost of war, however, comes from the expansion in the size and scope of government. Government always grows during wars and other crises. As economist Murray Rothbard noted, government uses crises to "Engineer the great leaps forward" in the size of the state. When the crisis ends, government never returns to its former size.



As government expands, individual liberty necessarily shrinks. True prosperity cannot exist without individual liberty and its corollaries of limited government, property rights, and free markets.

Ultimately, war leaves us with less freedom at home. The sad irony is that while our soldiers have fought for the freedom of Europe, Korea, Vietnam, Kuwait, and Iraq, the government uses war to steadily diminish freedom here at home.

■ **Ron Paul** is a Republican U.S. Representative from Texas and was the 1988 Libertarian Party candidate for president. Reprinted from "Texas Straight Talk" at: www.house.gov/paul/tst.

■ There is no just cause

By Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.

(March 18, 2003)

All public policy involves moral issues, but particularly foreign policy and war. War kills. It destroys. It smashes what men and women have created with their own hands. It yields terror and suffering. It is radically inhumane and unleashes devils of all sorts.

When we are talking about war, we are not just having a regular political debate. It's not like discussing whether to expand housing subsidies. We are discussing whether to ruin and destroy lives. And the consequences of war last decades, even centuries. It is serious business.

Right now, the U.S. is on the verge of obliterating a country that never did anything to us. The claims that it could do something to us are no more plausible than the same claim that could be made of 100 other countries.

This attack will set a precedent for unending war all over the region

and the world. It will transform America and make the threat and use of violence a constant part of our lives. The U.S. is, in effect, claiming to be the consolidated world state, in charge of who rules what country and how and whether they may defend themselves.

Given this reality, it is about time that someone raises the question of justice and morality.

So far as I can tell, this war on Iraq clearly violates every tenet of "Just War" theory. There is no just cause. It is not defensive, nor proportional, nor a last resort, nor conducted by legitimate authority, nor protective of innocents, nor likely to leave the world a better place. In short, it is unjust.

■ **Llewellyn H. Rockwell, Jr.** is president of the Ludwig von Mises Institute and editor of *LewRockwell.com*. Reprinted from: www.LewRockwell.com.

■ Peace is Hell

By Nick Gillespie

(March 20, 2003)

We [may win the pre-emptive war with Iraq] but the real question has always been whether we can win the pre-emptive peace.

Leaving aside the large issue of human and financial costs, it seems highly unlikely that the U.S. will succeed in turning Iraq into a democracy anytime soon, much less creating a Petri dish for the same throughout the region.

As in South Korea, to name another place in which U.S. involvement was decisive, it will likely take decades for Iraq to emerge as anything like a Western-style democracy. As columnist Georgie Anne Geyer writes, "Iraq is the least likely country in the world to be 'democratized'... economic and social problems there [are] so intense as to undermine basic stability in the region for years."

A State Department document recently leaked to the Los Angeles Times underscores such an assessment, arguing according to its leaker that "this idea that you're going to transform the Middle East is not credible."

Founded in its modern form in 1932, Iraq has no tradition of democracy. Rather it has all too much acquaintance with a succession of more or less benevolent strong men and

tyrants.

Not only would democracy "be subject to exploitation by anti-American elements," it's far from clear that what happens in Iraq will have much spillover effect.

As an intelligence officer told the Times, "to sell [the war] on the basis that this is going to cause 1,000 flowers to bloom is naive."

■ **Nick Gillespie** is the editor-in-chief of *Reason* magazine. Reprinted from: www.reason.org.

Life and death

By Thomas Sowell

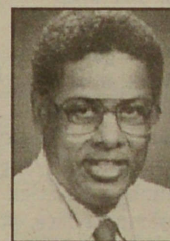
(March 25, 2003)

We have heard a lot about anti-war demonstrators. The blessings we have in this country have been so taken for granted for so long by such people that they have no sense of what past sacrifices created these blessings, what present-day sacrifices are necessary to sustain them.

More than ingratitude is involved. Those who do not understand what an ongoing price has to be paid continuously to remain free are not only quick to balk at any costs that they have to pay or any restrictions they have to endure, they are also quick to attribute cheap motives to those who have the responsibility to make the hard decisions required to protect us from the dangers that the blind refuse to acknowledge.

Some of these who blindly lash out at America say that the real reason American troops are going into Iraq is to get control of that country's oil. Do they realize that we had control of Kuwait's oil during the previous Gulf war — and gave it back to the Kuwaitis? Do facts matter at all to those who are on a binge of self-righteousness?

Does it matter to them that we



live in an age where "giving peace a chance" means giving people like Saddam Hussein time to develop nuclear weapons? Does it matter to them that the doctrine of "pre-emption" is not just an abstract issue but, in a nuclear age, can be the difference between life and death for millions of Americans?

It never seems to occur to them that, in the real world as it exists, we are not worried because Britain or Israel have nuclear weapons. But anyone with a brain in his head should be worried that North Korea has them and that Saddam Hussein has been trying to get them.

■ **Thomas Sowell** is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute and a nationally syndicated columnist. Reprinted from: www.townhall.com.

A form of patriotism

By Richard Ebeling

(February 21, 2003)

When war comes between the United States and Iraq, one of the first results will be the attempt to close off criticisms of U.S. foreign policy.

Spokesmen for the Bush administration, members of Congress, and many of the [television] talking heads will all chime in and sing the same tune. Criticism and doubt about the necessity for going to war were all fine and good before our troops were committed to battle. But now that "our boys" are in harm's way, every "real American" must stand behind his president and "our fighting men in the field."

The appeal will be to the notion "My country right or wrong," now that the nation is at war.

[However], it will be at just such a time that doubts and criticisms of American foreign policy will, in fact, be most needed.

It is precisely during war that the citizenry must remind the government that its function is to protect the lives, liberty, and property of the people. Government must be prevented from using the cover of war and national emergency to expand its own powers of intrusion and control over the people whose freedom it is meant to guard.

Ultimately, the greatest long-run threat to the freedom of any people is its own government. If history has taught anything, it is that once freedoms have been lost, regaining those lost freedoms from their own government is no easy task. The first duty, therefore, is to prevent those freedoms from being taken away.

To speak out in such a manner is the highest form of patriotism in a free society, because it is motivated by the desire to see that even in the heat of battle we expect our government and ourselves to act in ways consistent with the principles of liberty on which the country was originally founded.

■ **Richard Ebeling** is vice president of academic affairs at the Future of Freedom Foundation. Reprinted from: www.fff.org.

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THE FORUM

Why Saddam Hussein would not have delivered WMD to al Qaeda

■ Editor's note: This essay was written before the war with Iraq commenced. However, we're printing it because Cato Institute scholar Gene Healy provides an interesting perspective on the principal rationale for the war: That, had he not been toppled, Saddam Hussein might have delivered weapons of mass destruction into the hands of Osama bin Laden and his al Qaeda terrorists. (Fortunately, it looks increasingly like the foreboding scenario that ends this essay is unlikely to come to pass.)

Of all the reasons the administration has offered for war with Iraq, keeping chemical and biological weapons out of the hands of al Qaeda resonates most strongly with the American people.

President Bush used that frightening prospect to dramatic effect in his State of the Union speech: "Imagine those 19 hijackers with other weapons and other plans — this time armed by Saddam Hussein. It would take one vial, one canister, one crate slipped into this country to bring a day of horror like none we have ever known."

But the administration's strongest sound-bite on Iraq is also its weakest

argument for war. The idea that Saddam Hussein would trust al Qaeda enough to give al Qaeda operatives chemical or biological weapons — and trust them to keep quiet about it — is simply not plausible.

Bin Laden, who views the rigid Saudi theocracy as insufficiently Islamic, has long considered Saddam Hussein an infidel enemy. Before Hussein invaded Kuwait in 1990, Bin Laden warned publicly that the Iraqi dictator had designs on conquering Saudi Arabia. When Iraq invaded Kuwait, Bin Laden offered to assemble his mujahedeen to battle Hussein and protect the Arabian peninsula.

"A bad Muslim"

Last summer, when CNN acquired a cache of al Qaeda training videotapes, they discovered an al Qaeda documentary that was highly critical of Hussein. Peter Bergen, the CNN terrorism expert who interviewed bin Laden in 1998, noted that bin Laden indicted Hussein as "a bad Muslim."

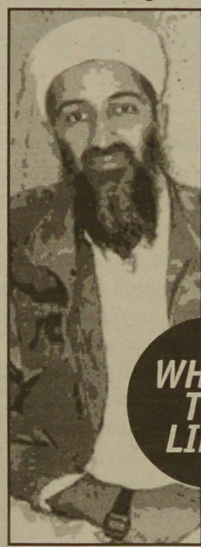
That theme continues in the latest "bin Laden" audiotape, released to Al Jazeera. In it, bin Laden (or

By Gene Healy

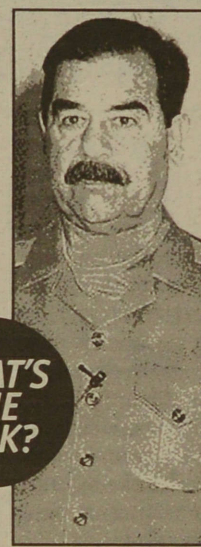
someone claiming to be him) urges Muslims to fight the American "crusaders" bent on invading Iraq.

But even while urging assistance to Hussein's "socialist" regime, "bin Laden" can't resist condemning that regime: "The jurisdiction of the socialists and those rulers has fallen a long time ago Socialists are infidels wherever they are, whether they are in Baghdad or Aden."

Of course, cooperation is possible; sworn enemies often collude when their interests coincide — most famously in the Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact of 1939. But Hussein, as a student and admirer of Stalin, knows how that turned out — with the Russian dictator double-crossed and almost destroyed by his Nazi ally.



WHAT'S THE LINK?



No doubt al Qaeda would accept chemical or biological weapons from Hussein. If he handed them over, the theory goes, he might be able to harm the United States without suffering massive retaliation because the strike would come via terrorist intermediaries. But the theory depends entirely on al Qaeda keeping quiet about how they acquired the weapons. Why would they?

Al Qaeda wants the Hussein regime overthrown. There's also good reason to believe they want to incite a U.S. invasion of Iraq to draw new recruits into the al Qaeda campaign against a so-called "Crusader"-Israeli alliance aimed at conquering the Middle East. Provoking a crackdown

by the enemy has been a key terrorist strategy for as long as there have been terrorists.

Getting Iraqi weapons of mass destruction would allow al Qaeda to kill two birds with one stone. They'd get to kill more Americans, and then, by revealing that

Hussein gave them the weapons (perhaps on a satellite phone they know American intelligence is monitoring) they'd get a war that would finish Saddam's "infidel" regime and bring "the jurisdiction of the socialists" to an end. A war that promises to bring

new Jihadis into the fold.

And all that would be necessary for al Qaeda to achieve these goals is to convince the Iraqi dictator to hand over the goods. Ask yourself: Did Saddam Hussein rise to the top of a totalitarian dictatorship by being quite so... trusting?

The idea that Hussein views a WMD strike via terrorist intermediaries as a viable strategy is rank speculation, contradicted by his past behavior. Hussein's hostility toward Israel predates his struggle with the United States. He's had longstanding ties with anti-Israeli terror groups and he's had chemical weapons for over 20 years. Yet there has never been a nerve gas attack in Israel.

Why? Because Israel has nuclear weapons and conventional superiority, and Hussein wants to live.

Regime-ending secret

If he's ever considered passing off chemical weapons to Palestinian terrorists, he decided that he wouldn't get away with it. He has even less reason to trust al Qaeda with a potentially regime-ending secret.

Of course, if regime change is coming anyway by force of American arms, Saddam Hussein "probably would become much less constrained in adopting terrorist action." That's what CIA director George Tenet told the House and Senate intelligence committees last October, to the embarrassment of the Bush administration.

Is Tenet right? We're about to find out.

■ About the author: Gene Healy is senior editor at the non-partisan, Washington, DC-based Cato Institute.

The truth about (and the morality of) the defensive use of guns

■ Editor's note: Pamela White is a writer for the Boulder Weekly newspaper in Colorado. In 2002, her house was broken into, and she was threatened by two intruders. The police arrived, and the intruders fled. In response, White wrote a column entitled, "The night I would have killed." In it, she said she was glad she hadn't had a gun because she "wanted to kill" the intruders, and doing so, a friend told her, would have "cost you your soul." In response, Ari Armstrong wrote this essay, to set White straight about guns and self-defense.

One of the first things Pamela White should learn is that sentiments like, "I wanted to kill," have no place in a defensive situation.

The story White relates is a terrifying one, to be sure. Two men broke into her apartment armed with knives and threatened her and her 9-month-old baby. White fears she would have been raped or murdered had the police not intervened.

But the purpose of using a gun for self-defense is not to vent anger, seek retaliation, or kill somebody. The sole purpose is to stop the threat.

White should also realize the folly

of her statement, "If I'd had a gun, I'd have shot them both in the face." The attempt would have been awfully stupid. If you're close enough to stick your gun in the criminal's face, you're too close for your own safety. In a high-stress defensive situation, the defender should generally aim at center of mass, for the purpose of stopping the threat.

White was very lucky that the police showed up in time to save her and her child. Many are not that lucky. At a trial earlier this year, a Denver police officer admitted the police usually show up only after the crime has been committed.

Police are too late

There's even a book out titled *Dial 911 and Die* that indicates the police are too late 95% of the time. If the intruders had cut White's phone lines first, she almost certainly would have become a victim.

White claims if she'd had a gun the night of the attack "at least one man — perhaps two — would have died." But that's unlikely.

In his book *More Guns, Less Crime*,

By Ari Armstrong

John Lott suggests a defensive gun use usually involves merely the brandishment of the firearm, not the firing of it. In other words, when criminals see a gun, they almost always flee. And in *Armed*, Gary Kleck points out a person with a gunshot wound dies less than 15% of the time.

White notes the tension between her aversion to using a gun and her reliance on armed police officers. Some might "say that makes me a hypocrite," she writes.

But White does not get to the core problem. She argues using a gun is immoral. "[I]t would have cost you your soul" to use a gun in self-defense, one of White's friends counseled her. She urges us to look to the "spiritual consequences" of defending our lives. "When we meet darkness with darkness, some of that darkness enters and stays inside."

I don't think White has fully thought through this notion that

police officers — agents of the state — should be in the unique position of acting immorally, of letting "darkness enter and stay inside them." The suggestion that police should sell their souls and do our dirty work for us is disturbing in its implications.

A free society demands the opposite philosophy: The powers of the

police should not extend far beyond those of the citizen. If it is immoral for a citizen to defend herself with lethal force, then it is immoral for the police to do so — and the police should be immediately disarmed.

It is the moral issue, therefore, that must be addressed at the deepest level. The right of self-defense is a necessary corollary of the right to life. There is nothing sinister about not wanting to be murdered and wanting to keep one's family safe.

White's comment, "in dying, we risk nothing," almost serves as a re-

ductio ad absurdum for her position. If life is not important, then nothing is. Ultimately, prudent self-defense is a celebration of life and a recognition of the value of life.

Become statistics

Before she began thinking of the issue in terms of ethics, White relates, she declined to purchase a gun because she feared her children would "find the gun and become statistics."

White would have done better to make sure her children never rode in cars or played near five-gallon buckets. In 1998, firearms accounted for about 2% of all unintentional injuries for children ages 1-14, far behind injury due to cars (50%), drowning (16%), and fires (13%).

Certainly all gun owners should be careful to keep their guns out of the hands of irresponsible persons. The overwhelming majority of gun owners, though, do maintain a safe household — a household also safer from violent attacks.

■ About the author: Ari Armstrong is editor of the Colorado Freedom Report. Visit it at: www.co-freedom.com. This essay reprinted from the Colorado Freedom Report.

IF IT IS IMMORAL
for a citizen to
defend herself, then
it is immoral for
the police to do so
— and the police
should be disarmed.

THE VOLUNTEER

Lessons learned and bric-a-brac from an outgoing LP State Chair

■ **Editor's note:** At the April 2003 Colorado LP state convention, John K. Berntson stepped down as State Chair after serving two terms. Before leaving, he distributed his final "Notes from the Chair."

I have decided not to run for chair again; two years is enough for anybody. It is time to let somebody else have a go.

Instead of writing some emotional sort of farewell address that might make me cry and short out my keyboard, I will instead just jot down some of the little bric-a-brac I have picked up over the last five years. Some are borrowed, most are mine.

■ It is not the Republicans, the Democrats, the RINOs, the unions, the lawyers, the media, the bureaucrats, or the politicians that are the problem. It is the belief by the American people that it is okay to use the force of government to solve problems that has led to the demise of freedom in our country.

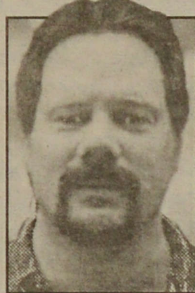
■ Do not get yourself into such a state that you cannot enjoy life, simply because of the current state of our society. Do not impoverish yourself or work for the cause to the exclusion of your own dreams. Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow you will most likely have to pay taxes.

■ Use caution when using the

word "patriotic" in your campaigns, especially in describing individual acts. Conservatives and labor have one definition of patriotism, while liberals have one that is quite different. If you define your worldview as patriotic, you automatically label everyone else's as unpatriotic. This will make them angry.

■ We should never forget that politics is numbers; we need to be focused on the mainstream, unaffiliated voter — and non-voter — trying to make our views appeal to them. Shopping malls and flea markets, not gun shows.

■ Newcomers to the movement



By John K. Berntson

see all of the horrible things that are happening in our country and assume that it all just happened while they were in the restroom. This leads them to assume that our world is going to Hell in a handbasket very quickly, but that is not the case. Statism and collectivism have been growing through evolution, not revolution, for many, many decades. Don't panic! Honestly, there is still plenty of time to turn it around.

■ We are asking voters to give up beliefs and assumptions they have held their whole lives, so they will not come over quickly. When someone tells you that he can convert anybody to our perspective in 10 minutes, he is lying or mistaken.

■ Stop talking about your rights. It is unclear whether the public really cares about their own rights; they certainly don't care about yours. Appeal to their self-interest instead.

"You're not serious!" When you hear this in response to your attempts

at persuasion, it means that you have not laid the proper groundwork. All seduction requires foreplay.

Libertarian vote totals seem to have little to do with our own efforts, but instead reflect the caliber of our opponents. For the near future, our campaigns need to be judged in terms of outreach, how many people we are reaching, and how many join.

■ Someone once told me that they did not believe the American people would ever accept a free society; that it would have to be forced on them. How's that again? Sure, you might get somebody on your side briefly by frightening them, but when they lose the fear, they will lose you as well.

■ That is not to say that emotion plays no part. Indeed, emotional arguments are the only ones that will ever win, in the end. Many of you seem to think that if you write the perfect position paper, answer every concern with a logical argument, the reader must fall at your feet and freedom will be the victor. What, in any of your experience, makes you think that would happen?

■ It is not the media, it is not those damn voters, and it is not some grand conspiracy, it is us: We do not persuade. Most people are worried about paying bills, raising kids, and putting food on the table. We have to give them our answers to their problems, not our answers to our problems. Sell a better life.

■ Any registered member gets a

voice in selecting candidates. Beyond that, all decisions should be made by those doing the work. Those who write long e-mails and dominate discussion groups with their grand plans, but never actually lift a finger, can be safely ignored.

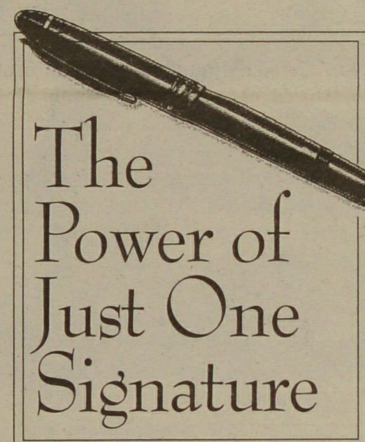
■ Speaking of grand plans, don't bother. It does not matter what your grand strategy is, because we do not have the money or the manpower to carry it out. We must first build the party before any grand plans will start to bear fruit. Get out there and build! Lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way!

■ If you ever convinced the people that politicians must be forced to follow the Constitution, all that would happen is that the Constitution would be amended to make all that happens today legal. If you convince the people that they want to live in a free society, the Constitution will take care of itself.

■ Sure the game is rigged, but if you don't play, you can't win.

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CORRECTIONS

■ In the March 2003 Forum column, a response from Vincent J. May (Elgin, Texas) was edited in such a way that some of his principle points were lost. LP News regrets the error. Here are Mr. Elgin's unedited comments: "I am strongly opposed to having the LNC decide 'official positions' on emerging issues. My preference is for polling of the paid members by e-mail, with two caveats. First, the chosen position must comport with the platform. The LNC could judge this. Second, since the world is full of disinfo, and democracy often fails, the adopted position should have super majority support of two-thirds of the members polled or three-quarters of those who actually vote. Otherwise, we remain silent until convention when better info and reflection can guide our deliberations." Mr. Elgin also added: "My preference is for polling of the paid members by e-mail. Polling members might encourage more members to pay their dues and remain members. It's another benefit of membership."

Do you think our government has gotten too big and too powerful? Do you think a maze of bureaucrats and politicians are chipping away at the freedoms Americans used to take for granted? Do you think the Bill of Rights is being silently repealed — one precious freedom at a time?

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THE EDITOR

Explaining why *LP News* takes an anti-war stance

As I write this column in early April, the shooting war in Iraq has been going on for three weeks. The debate among Libertarians about whether the party should support or oppose that war has been going on much longer.

As editor of *LP News*, I've gotten heat about how this newspaper responded to the war (from people who think we're either too *pro-war* or too *anti-war*). So, I'd like to answer some common questions.

1) There is disagreement among Libertarians about whether the LP should support the war. Why does *LP News* favor the anti-war viewpoint?

As editor, it's my responsibility to ensure that *LP News* reflects the LP Platform's view. On military issues, the LP Platform is *resolutely* non-interventionist. In fact, there are more than a dozen specific policy prescriptions in our Platform to curb American military activities in foreign nations. And if there's any confusion, the Platform states: "We would end the current U.S. government policy of foreign intervention, including military and economic aid..."

In the absence of an attack on the U.S. — or the immediate, grave, and unequivocal danger of an attack — I believe the Libertarian Party's position *must* be to oppose the invasion of another nation.

I believe a vast majority of Libertarians supported military action in Afghanistan because it was against a regime that sheltered and supported the al Qaeda terrorists who killed 3,000 Americans on 9/11. I believe a vast majority of Libertarians oppose military action in Iraq because Iraq poses no credible threat to the U.S., and because there is no credible link between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda.

That said, there is always room for discussion. That's why *LP News* has printed letters in support of the war, and ran a point/counter-point about the war in the February Forum.

2) In the January Pulse column, 45% of the respondents said they support military action against Iraq. Isn't this proof that the LP is split down the middle on the issue?

No. Every month, the Pulse points out the unscientific nature of the column, but I'm not sure readers grasp *how* unscientific it is. In a typical Pulse column, only 20 to 40 *LP News* readers contribute. That's a response rate of less than 0.1% — or one out of every 1,000 readers. So, that 45% represents the opinion of perhaps 10 to 20 readers. The Pulse is *entertainment*. It's an opportunity to see what a small number of vocal Libertarians think. It does not necessarily reflect the viewpoint of most LP members.

3) Why do you give so much coverage to Libertarians who participate in anti-war marches with leftists and socialists?

Libertarians in more than a dozen states have participated in organized anti-war activities. As editor, I think it is important to report on the political activities of LP members, even if we don't like the company they keep. In news articles, I always try to explain the reasons why Libertarians oppose the war, so their viewpoints aren't confused with the foolish arguments of the left.

I, too, am disturbed that Libertarians are linked with leftists. However, I understand that some Libertarians think it is crucial to publicly protest the war. In doing so, they are willing to make a one-time common cause with people who don't share our freedom-loving agenda.

4) Isn't *LP News* just echoing the viewpoints of anti-American leftists when it opposes the war?

No. *LP News* has made *Libertarian* arguments against the war, using points made by the (non-leftist) Cato Institute and (non-leftist) Congressman Ron Paul.

Based on the number of times I've been asked this question, I get the sense that some Libertarians support the war simply because they can't stand being on the anti-war side with the likes of Michael Moore, Susan Sarandon, the Dixie Chicks, France, and those nitwits who organize "vomit-ins" and carry signs that say "No Blood for Oil."

I sympathize. However, the fact that foolish people (and France, but I repeat myself) also oppose the war (for different reasons than we do) is irrelevant to our principled Libertarian stance.

By the time you read this, the war might be over. U.S. troops may have toppled Hussein and liberated Iraqis from tyranny (as appears to be the case from recent news reports). Or we might still be engaged in a bloody guerrilla war. But neither outcome would change the fact that this war was *not* necessary for the self-defense of our nation.



By Bill Winter

LP NEWS EDITOR

The power of incremental proposals (that are quite surprisingly radical)

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

By Bill Winter
LP NEWS EDITOR

You Libertarians are too radical."

How many times have you heard that comment from friends or potential voters?

"You Libertarians have good ideas, but you take them too far."

Heard that one? You probably have.

It's not just voters who say those things. Political science experts and journalists argue that the Libertarian Party is too ideological and too extreme for Americans.

For example, in 2000, the *Christian Science Monitor* quoted Michael Genovese, a political science professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, who said the LP's platform is just too radical for a majority of voters.

The party has "strong ideological appeal" for some people, he acknowledged, "but turns off a lot of other people. It's a case of the less you know, the more attractive the party is."

In 2002, Steven Greenhut, an editorial writer for the *Orange County Register*, argued that Libertarians don't want to succeed politically.

"They [would] rather sit in the ivory tower, where they keep their ideological purity untainted," he wrote.

Are they correct? We'll leave that for the purists and pragmatists in the party to debate.

But the fact is, some significant percentage of American voters — even if they generally favor less government — are reluctant to support the whole Libertarian agenda.

For LP candidates who are concerned about the party's "radical" reputation, perhaps it's time to start selling a program that offers a "First Step To Liberty." These are proposals that may be less threatening to the typical voter, but would still move the USA in a decidedly libertarian direction.

Wait a second: Are these wimpy "sell-out" proposals? Philosophical pabulum? Republican Lite?

Not at all. Despite being incremental steps, they are surprisingly, well, radical.

■ One would save taxpayers \$163.7 billion, and more than a trillion dollars over five years.

■ One would prevent 646,000 Americans from being arrested for a victimless crime.

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

■ One could prompt millions of American workers to opt out of the failing Social Security system.

Intrigued? Here are those three incremental proposals. They would move America closer to the libertarian society we dream about — while tempering the charges of ivory-tower radicalism.

■ **Freeze federal spending.**

That's right: Don't demand a *cut* in federal spending. Simply say: Not one penny more. Freeze taxes and

\$74.7 billion in supplemental spending to fund the war in Iraq.

So, a freeze would save taxpayers \$163.7 billion next year. (Of course, a corollary of the freeze is that all excess revenue would be immediately returned to taxpayers in the form of lower taxes.)

It gets better: Bush plans to increase spending by an additional \$100+ billion a year after 2004. By 2008, federal spending will be \$571 billion per year higher than it is now.

So, in just five years, a federal freeze would reduce government spending by a total of \$1.6 trillion. That's \$1.6 trillion that would remain in taxpayers' pockets — and not be squandered by federal bureaucrats.

And all without calling for a single "cut" in spending.

The power of the freeze grows over time. Had Libertarians been able to impose a freeze in 1987, the federal budget would still be just \$1 trillion. With a \$1 trillion budget, Washington, DC would consume just 10% of the nation's \$10.1 trillion Gross Domestic product (GDP) — instead of the approximately 19% it consumes now.

It gets better. Had the freeze been implemented in 1972 — the year of the LP's founding — the federal government would now have a (relatively) puny budget of only \$231 billion. It would be a Libertarian's fantasy come true: A federal government that's only 10.3% the size it is today.

And it all could have happened without demanding a single "cut" in spending.

Libertarians, who live and breathe the "cut government" mantra, may experience cognitive dissonance at the thought of merely freezing the cost of government. That's understandable.

But before we can talk about cutting government's size, we first have to stop its growth. A freeze — with no exceptions, no loopholes — would do that. And, as the years pass and the economy grows, the frozen federal budget would consume a smaller and smaller portion of the nation's wealth (and your wallet).

Need another reason to advocate a freeze? Just think of the shock on the faces of your opponents in a debate when you say: "As a Libertarian, I think the government is the perfect size right now. Let's keep it that way."

Let's see them try to argue with that.

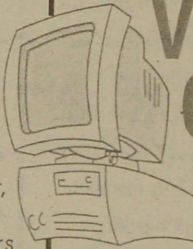
■ **Legalize marijuana.**

Just marijuana. For the time being, forget about cocaine, heroin, ecstasy, and any other powerful narcotic. The prospect of making those

See **INCREMENTAL** Page 22

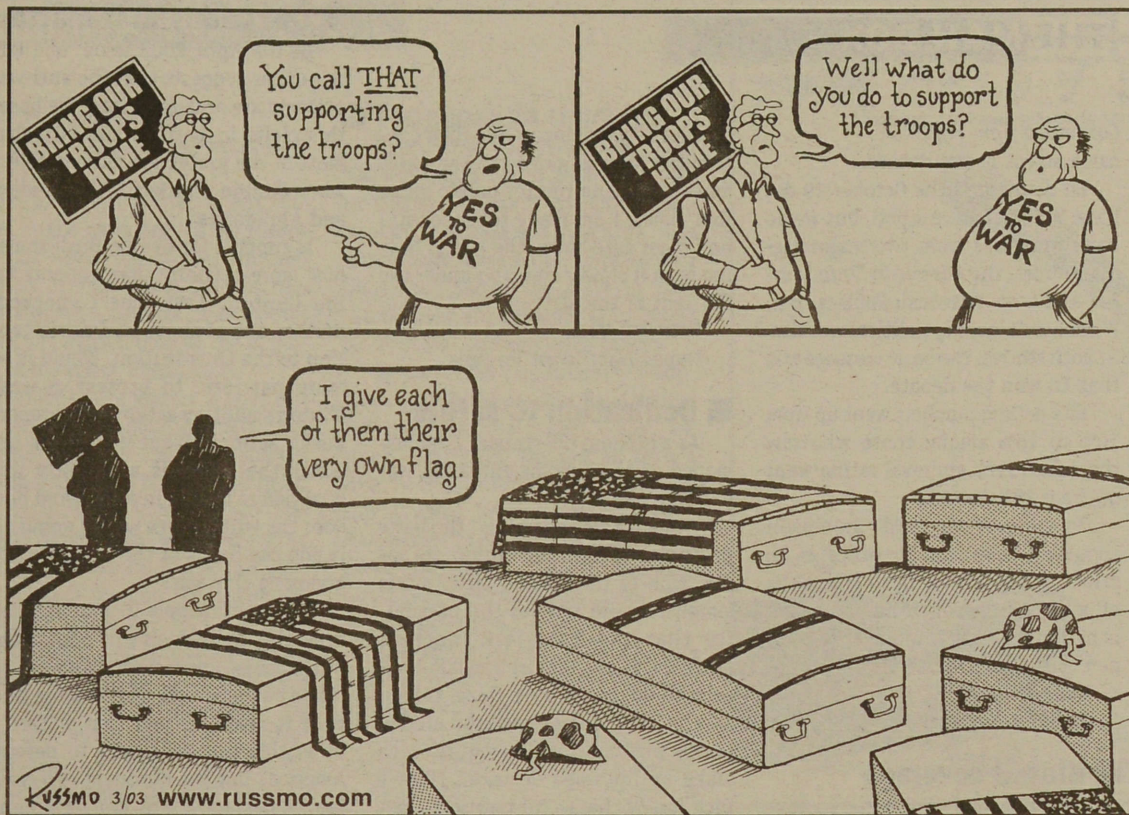


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THE PULSE

Thinking about 2004

Here are some names: What do they have in common? Clint Eastwood. Carla Howell. Judge James Gray. Harry Browne. Ron Paul. George W. Bush. Wait a second — *George W. Bush?*

That's right: The current Republican occupant of the White House won one vote as, ahem, the "ideal LP presidential candidate" for 2004.

That thinking-way-outside-the-box vote aside, this unscientific Pulse survey suggested that *LP News* readers are musing about the 2004 presidential election, but that no consensus candidate has emerged.

In response to this month's question — "Who would you like to see seek (and win) the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential nomination?" — *LP News* readers nominated 17 different political figures.

Coming in first place with 15.4% of the vote was Carla Howell, the LP's 2002 candidate for governor in Massachusetts, and the architect of the ballot initiative to eliminate the state income tax.

Coming in tied for second with 11.5% were Academy Award-winning actor and self-described libertarian Clint Eastwood, and libertarian science fiction writer L. Neil Smith (whose votes all arrived on the same day. Hmmm.).

In third place (with 7.7%) was former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, a Republican who garnered national attention with his libertarian approach to the War on Drugs.

(Full disclosure: So no candidate can try to make more of this vote than it warrants, only 22 *LP News* readers responded to this Pulse question. Some nominated more than one candidate, so there were a total of 26 votes cast. Which means that Howell "won" with four votes.)

Here's who *LP News* readers want to see on the 2004 ballot:

■ Carla Howell. In 2002, Carla convinced 45% of Bay Staters to vote for abolishing the Massachusetts income tax and for reducing their state tax burden by 40% — after that state's major media mounted a united effort to silence her! Imagine the effect Carla could have on the people's attitudes about the federal income tax!

— **STEPHEN J. BAKER**, Minneapolis, Minnesota

■ L. Neil Smith. He has principles, something rare among LP candidates. (And nonexistent among candidates from the other parties).

— **WARD GRIFFITH**, Los Angeles, California

■ My ideal Libertarian Party presidential candidates are either former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson, U.S. Representative Ron Paul (R-TX), actor Clint Eastwood, or billionaire David Koch. The reason is media attention, good campaigning, and name recognition.

— **WILLIAM SOLLENBERGER**, Lockwood, Missouri

■ The party should do everything in its power to recruit Jesse Ventura to run. It is obvious from reading his two books that he has Libertarian ideals, and has insinuated in a recent interview that he has an interest in running. He has had positive things to say about the party in the past, and he knows how to win an election. He is someone who can give us the exposure we need, and put us on the political map.

— **TONY CORRENTI**, West Islip, New York

■ I would like to see Ken Krawchuk run. His public speaking and debating skills are second to none. He's a firebrand who would be an asset to the national political debate.

— **GLEN GOODMAN**, Abington, Pennsylvania

■ If we can convince Hugh Downs to run for president, we should endorse him. He has significant name recognition and should be able to garner enough support to put us in the debates and there is a very slight possibility that he might win. He also will get more publicity than any other Libertarian Party candidate.

— **PHILIP HEATH**, San Pedro, California

■ My favorite LP presidential candidate, and the one that I believe would represent the party best, is Judge Jim P. Gray. This judge and former federal prosecutor has well-established credentials that would strengthen our membership base. In addition, Gray actively promotes smaller government and more local control. He has extensive knowledge of what law can or cannot accomplish and our Constitution.

— **DUANE GRINDSTAFF**, Kent, Washington

■ I wouldn't wish the LP presidential nomination upon my worst enemy. Our history shows that as soon as the election is over Libertarians rip the presidential candidate apart. There is a difference between attacking a person and constructive criticism. I'll certainly support anyone masochistic enough to seek and win the nomination.

— **DANIEL L. BEATTY**, Centerville, Pennsylvania

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THE MAILBOX

Hide the silverware

When will the LP learn that when Ralph Nader comes around, it's time to hide the silverware? ["LP joins campaign to halt tort bill," April 2003].

Nader is concerned about Constitution rights? Since when? The only thing he's interested in is government of the trial lawyers, by the trial lawyers, and for the trial lawyers. They are his source of power and support.

Think tobacco settlement. Think settlements where the lawyers walk away with billions in cold cash and the supposed "victims" get dollar-off coupons. Think of the doctors that are leaving the profession or moving, or of the health care facilities that are going bare because they can't afford liability insurance. Huge, unwarranted court awards are a national problem.

Unfortunately, Nader has discovered that if he utters the magic words "Constitutional rights," the LP's Pavlovian response will be to fall in behind his banner.

The LP laments the decrease in contributions. Following Nader's lead isn't going to help. I guarantee that at least one wallet will remain closed as long as the LP marches to Nader's drum.

— **DON WACKER**
Issaquah, Washington

Issues, principles

LP News is subtitled, "The Party of Principle." I'm beginning to doubt this is true. The LP's agreement to cooperate with Ralph Nader is as severe a departure from principle as I can imagine.

Geoffrey Neale states, "I think it is prudent for us to support any [individuals or organizations] that fight for the Constitution."

But Ralph Nader does not fight for the Constitution! He has consistently been in favor of more federal control at the expense of the Constitution. The fact that Mr. Nader happens to want the same end result as the LP on this particular issue does not justify working with him.

RALPH NADER
concerned about
Constitutional rights?
Since when? The only
thing he's interested
in is government for
the trial lawyers.

Neale from the LP and William A. Niskanen from the Cato Institute correctly denounce the current tort reform bill based on principles; namely lack of federal authority and the arbitrariness of a \$250K cap handed down from the federal government.

At the same time they seem to recognize that tort reform is needed because of the inability for businesses and insurance companies to gauge their liabilities (a form of lawlessness).

Nader, on the other hand, is

against tort reform — period. He believes in subjective morality and subjective law. Any punishment that 12 people "feel" like dishing out is OK — if they believe a product is unsafe (a subjective assessment), then a company is liable. This is the opposite of the principled views of Neale and Niskanen.

Proper tort reform should focus on restoring objectivity to our legal system. Enforcing arbitrary caps is not the solution, nor is federalizing the problem.

But pretending that Nader has adopted free-market principles or is a defender of the Constitution undermines the LP's credibility. And cooperating with him indicates to me that the LP has decided to put issues above principles.

— **JIM ALLARD**
Madison, Wisconsin

Defending Thompson

I enjoy *LP News* every month, and have done so for over 10 years. However, an article by Justin Somma ["Learning from LP candidates' failures in the 2002 election," *The Forum*, March 2003] was printed that I wish to respond to.

[Contrary to what Somma wrote], Ed Thompson doesn't slur his speech. He speaks clear Wisconsin English, with a slight rural twinge that common folks can connect with. He doesn't have an eastern accent.

Ed didn't slouch over the table during the October 29 debate. He leans forward with attention. Ed is known as a boxer and a fighter for the common people. That is how he

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THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

■ Carla Howell would seem to be the best Libertarian Party candidate for president; that would get the attention of more women voters. The party would do well if Ken Krawchuk ran for vice president.

— DAVID DAHMS, Easton, Pennsylvania

■ Harry Browne. He's the complete package for president. Talk show radio host, past presidential candidate and what I consider his greatest advantages, father/husband and an economist. I hope to see Harry Browne as the Libertarian front man for many years to come.

— KEVIN KURZAWA, Broomfield, Colorado

■ Perhaps it is time for the Libertarian Party to officially endorse whichever of the major-party candidates is closest to Libertarian principles. The outcome of the race is likely to be the same, but the party could then get vital input to the platform and legislative process. Let's at least channel this influence. As a result, I would likely go for George Bush, and some guarantees on Libertarian actions.

— WALT NICHOLAS, Orem, Utah

■ Gary Johnson. It would be hard for the media to ignore an ex-Governor, and Johnson has excellent credibility and great charisma. Gary Johnson's main focus is ending the drug war, and that's also where most of the LP's focus should lie as well.

— JOSH CORN, State College, Pennsylvania

■ Joseph Sobran, a brilliant, principled man who says more in a few sentences than most people could say in a book. In his syndicated columns, you will see that he addresses the most important issues facing the country in an insightful manner Libertarians will appreciate. He is someone who should be invited to the presidential debates simply because the things he has to say are too important to ignore.

— VINCENT O'NEILL, Glen Cove, New York

July Question: 50 States?

Fifty-state ballot status: Do we really need it? At its December 2002 meeting, the Libertarian National Committee budgeted \$213,000 for ballot access—but made it conditional on money being raised to fund it. Previously, 50-state ballot status for our presidential candidate had been a core goal. Now, it's conditional. The LP did achieve 50-state status in 1992, 1996, and 2000—but at a huge cost. In 1999, for example, the party spent \$86,000 on ballot access, and another \$507,000 in 2000. There's no doubt that 50-state status earned some media attention for our recent presidential candidates. But it didn't generate breakthrough coverage on the major networks, nor get them in the presidential debates. Not being on the ballot in every state would mean that some LP members wouldn't be able to cast a ballot for our candidate. But being on every ballot certainly didn't result in record numbers of votes in 1992, 1996, or 2000. So the question is: *How important is being on every state ballot?*

■ **QUESTION:** Should the Libertarian Party make 50-state ballot status for our presidential candidate a priority in 2004? Why or why not? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** June 8, 2003

June Question: The Pulse?

Genetically modified food. Campaign matching funds. War with Iraq. Cooperating with the Greens. Improving the LP platform. Your most despised politician. Why more women don't support the LP. A new party slogan. Abolishing the membership "pledge." Term Limits. A flat tax. A better name for the party. The death penalty...

Over the years, this Pulse column has asked *LP News* readers just about every imaginable political, tactical, cultural, and strategic question imaginable. *Or have we?* Probably not—and that's why we're going to turn the tables this month, and ask you a different kind of question: What question should we ask in an upcoming Pulse? We'll list the most interesting, provocative, and offbeat suggestions in the June issue, and then proceed to ask the best questions in the months that follow. Your proposed question can relate to any debatable issue of potential interest to Libertarians. Remember: This is your one chance to get a free (unscientific!) public opinion survey of your fellow Libertarians!

■ **QUESTION:** What question should a future Pulse ask *LP News* readers? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ **DEADLINE:** May 8, 2003

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include your name and your city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied! Enter just once per month.

■ **E-mail:** Editor@hq.LP.org. (Put "Pulse" in subject line.)

■ **Fax:** (202) 333-0072 (Attn: The Pulse).

■ **Mail:** Bill Winter, Attn: *LP News/The Pulse*, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

THE MAILBOX

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came across in the debate.

Ed dominated the October 29 debate. We don't have a poll, but we do have write-ups from two major media sources, the *Wisconsin State Journal* and *www.WisconsinPolitics.com*, Wisconsin's leading political website. In both stories, the basic message was that Ed won the debate.

Ed's polling numbers went up from 10% to 16% among those who saw the debate. His approval rating went up from 28% to 43%.

To suggest that Ed Thompson shouldn't have run for office is an atrocity that has no business in the official LP newspaper. Ed Thompson is by far the best thing ever to happen to the Libertarian Party.

— ROLF LINDGREN

Middleton, Wisconsin

■ Biased coverage

I am appalled at the biased coverage in libertarian media and out of libertarian "leaders" regarding Iraq.

Your article "Libertarians speak out against Iraqi war" [*LP News*, April 2003] continued a long line of anti-war bias in this publication. With more than 70% of the nation supporting the war effort, I would be surprised if at least half of libertarians didn't also support it. Your own "survey" showing 45% approval of the war should be enough to encourage *LP News* to offer both sides of the argument, rather than relegating those in favor of Iraqi liberation to the "Mailbox" section.

As a proud libertarian, I am truly embarrassed at the party's inability to understand the rationale behind the war effort. Even the Democratic (socialist) Party is more welcoming to differing war opinions.

It is a fact that the freedoms Libertarians relish must be protected by a strong military. This has been proven many times in history.

— ROBIN ANDERSON

Camarillo, California

■ Criminal act

I think that this invasion of Iraq is a criminal act by the government of the United States. As such, and because it portends more, the Libertarian Party must be publicly opposed. True, we will lose a few members (and I wonder how committed to the Libertarian Party some of these "hawks" are), but we are losing members anyway.

The Libertarian Party should be screaming for the impeachment of Bush and Ashcroft, but instead we are going after Gray Davis, a benign bureaucrat compared to the fascist criminals in the Bush Administration.

I am a life member of the Liber-

tarian Party, having at one time contributed serious money to the party and also having run for public office four times. I am ready to move on; I no longer care about the party, having seen it slowly creeping under the Big Tent of the GOP.

— RICHARD VAJS

Upper Tract, West Virginia

■ Dedication to safety

As a lifelong libertarian, I am dismayed at the current anti-Iraqi war position of the LP.

While we all understand the basic principle of non-intervention, its application to the current situation is simplistic, and ignores the possibility that the knee-jerk reaction against the war against Saddam Hussein might be because those taking this position do not have the intelligence information prerequisite to make an informed decision. (Didn't Dick Arney change his position when he learned the facts?)

Does anyone take seriously the argument that we allow the terrorist to gain more power until we can't possibly defend ourselves? I give the benefit of any doubt to the administration that has clearly demonstrated truthfulness about and dedication to our safety. I see no indication that we are going to occupy Iraq, rather than liberate it.

While I do not advocate generally interfering in the affairs of other countries, in the face of the terrorism against us, it is suicide to try to defend ourselves without taking the war to them.

I did not participate in the poll and I suspect there is a "silent majority" in our party that is embarrassed, as am I, to be identified with the LP's anti-Iraqi-war stance.

— JOHN H. BERTEL

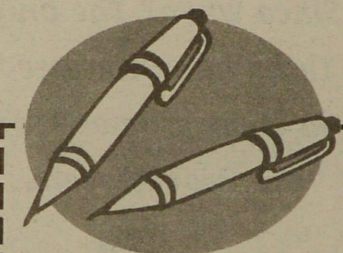
Metairie, Louisiana

■ Fight tyranny

Either one is or is not willing to fight tyranny. Borders make no difference. We are citizens of the world. And we must fight tyranny wherever it exists.

— JACK McNALLY

Harlingen, Texas



Make Your Voice Heard!

LP News welcomes letters.

Send correspondence to:

E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org.

Fax: (202) 333-0072

(Attn: LP News).

Mail: Bill Winter, Attn: *LP News*, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

■ Questions that matter

In the April 2003 issue, one letter writer suggests that the anti-war protests are anti-American. He bases this claim in part on the fact that most of the protesters did not object when Clinton attacked Serbia, Sudan, and Afghanistan.

Is support for George Bush somehow more patriotic than support for Bill Clinton? Last time I checked, neither one of them paid any attention to the Constitution. Would it be more patriotic to protest against Clinton's military actions but support Bush's actions? What if a person believes that Bush is manifestly unqualified to lead us in a war? And how does the writer know what's going on inside the heads of the many people opposing this war?

Too many people in America assume that individuals who oppose the war must be unpatriotic. We need to take that label off of the table and stick to the questions that matter:

Is this war necessary to defend America? Did the President receive a proper declaration of war from Congress, as set forth in the Constitution? Is the war being prosecuted in an effective manner? Are we doing our best to minimize the harm inflicted on innocent Iraqi civilians and their property? What is the best "exit strategy" to disentangle ourselves from the affairs of the Iraqi people when this war is over?

Reasonable people might disagree over the answers to these questions, but these issues are far more important than smearing people who sincerely conclude that this war is not necessary to the security of the United States.

— ALEX SMALL

Goleta, California

■ Emotional attack

I am writing to express my disgust with Mr. Steve Anderson's letter to the editor [April 2003]. This man makes no logical arguments and instead resorts to an emotional attack on Mr. Neal Boortz. If I didn't know any better, I'd say Mr. Anderson was a far-left Democrat.

In Mr. Boortz's defense, I would like to say that he is a fine man and I truly enjoy his show. In fact, he is the reason that I have been a proud card-carrying, voting member of the Libertarian Party for the past two years. Furthermore, I must agree with Mr. Boortz in his support of the war and feel this is a necessary act that we are undertaking in Iraq.

God Bless you, our president, our great nation, and our troops.

— JOHN LYNCH, JR.

Lake City, Florida

■ The Boortz problem

I found Steve Anderson's letter calling Neal Boortz a "problem" rather amusing. Perhaps he should go back to Libertarian Ideas 101 for a refresher in Libertarian views.

Calling himself a Libertarian, Anderson's first sentence questions the LP as to why it "allows" Boortz to effectively represent what I believe are the "mainstream" Libertarian Party views. What's wrong with this picture folks? A member asking the

See **THE MAILBOX** Page 21

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THE MAILBOX

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party why it "allows" the freedom of speech?

And although Boortz is not employed by the party and, to my knowledge has never represented himself to be an official spokesman for the LP, Anderson suggests that Boortz should put a disclaimer at the beginning of his show. Ridiculous!

The fact of the matter is that two Libertarians can have diametrically opposite views on the same subject (e.g., abortion) and both can be right. As such, Boortz's views on the war are not "Republican" views any more than his position on the decriminalization of drugs can be called the "Democrat" position.

With respect to Boortz's views on the war, Boortz states at least once a show that he is in conflict with the LP on the "just" nature of the war and stated that very thing on his show today (March 31, 2003).

— DAVID BRIGGMAN

Keezletown, Virginia

Bold and upfront

The statement issued March 20 by the LP on the Iraq war [see page 3] should have been a lot stronger.

One had to read way down to the bottom to find anything that was actually Libertarian. It should have called right up front for cease-fire, withdrawal of U.S. forces, and impeachment of President George W. Bush for war crimes.

Talking about "minimizing casualties" and "supporting our troops" does nothing to distinguish Libertarians from every political shyster in the world.

Let's talk about why non-intervention is the only safe, decent, and moral policy. Let's talk about how government causes terrorism by meddling in the affairs of others. And let's align ourselves now with the growing Impeach Bush movement!

Let's be bold, truthful, and upfront.

— CARL VASSAR

Trumbull, Connecticut

Quickly win the war

From the letters published in the LP News, we are seriously divided on the war issue. We are also divided on abortion, marriage, and many other issues. My concern is that our party may be torn apart by the war issue.

There may have been merit to the anti-war position of Harry Browne, Michael Cloud, and many others. Now that we are in this mess, we should not be supporting the peace protesters. We should encourage our government to quickly win the Iraq war and thus reduce loss of life. Peace protests strengthen the present Iraq government resolve to resist.

We cannot change the past, but we should learn from it. Let us stop speculating about how past policies have led us into war. We Libertarians should have much discussion at all levels on how to improve the future of the world and our country.

— ROLAND O. PETERSON

Waltham, Massachusetts

Propaganda machine

Rick Libby ["No litmus test," The MailBox, April 2003] should own up to his employment by the Bush/neocon propaganda machine. His letter represents an attempt to blur lines that allows the state to constantly push the envelope of its power to encroach on individual liberty.

He states that he believes "a convincing Libertarian case for national defense could be made." Then, instead of actually presenting such a case, he toddles off into why the party should avoid "such a divisive issue." Mama sez play nice, kiddies? Mr. Libby presents no "convincing Libertarian case" for the simple reason that one cannot be made.

The key question that he asks without answering: "What is the difference between the initiation of military aggression versus an act of national self-defense?" This question is black-and-white. The answer is national self-defense occurs as a response to an attack. It's called aggression when no such attack has occurred or is imminent. That is the case here.

— CARTER MITCHELL

Gurnee, Illinois

Cursed us all

Although it would have been outside his job description, had George Bush killed only the murderer Saddam Hussein, he would have been a hero in most of the world.

But he ordered bombs dropped, knowing full well that he would kill innocent people, and kill he has. Victims of great wrongs often become their wrongdoers, and Bush and his bombers are now as much murderers as Osama bin Laden and his bombers.

Worse, by purporting to act in our name, he has cursed us all.

— RICHARD D. FUERLE

Grand Island, New York

Growing horror

I have been reading, with growing horror, the letters from alleged members of the Libertarian Party that they support this "pre-emptive" war on Iraq. I would love to waste some time rebutting their government-supplied arguments, but my letter speaks to a deeper issue:

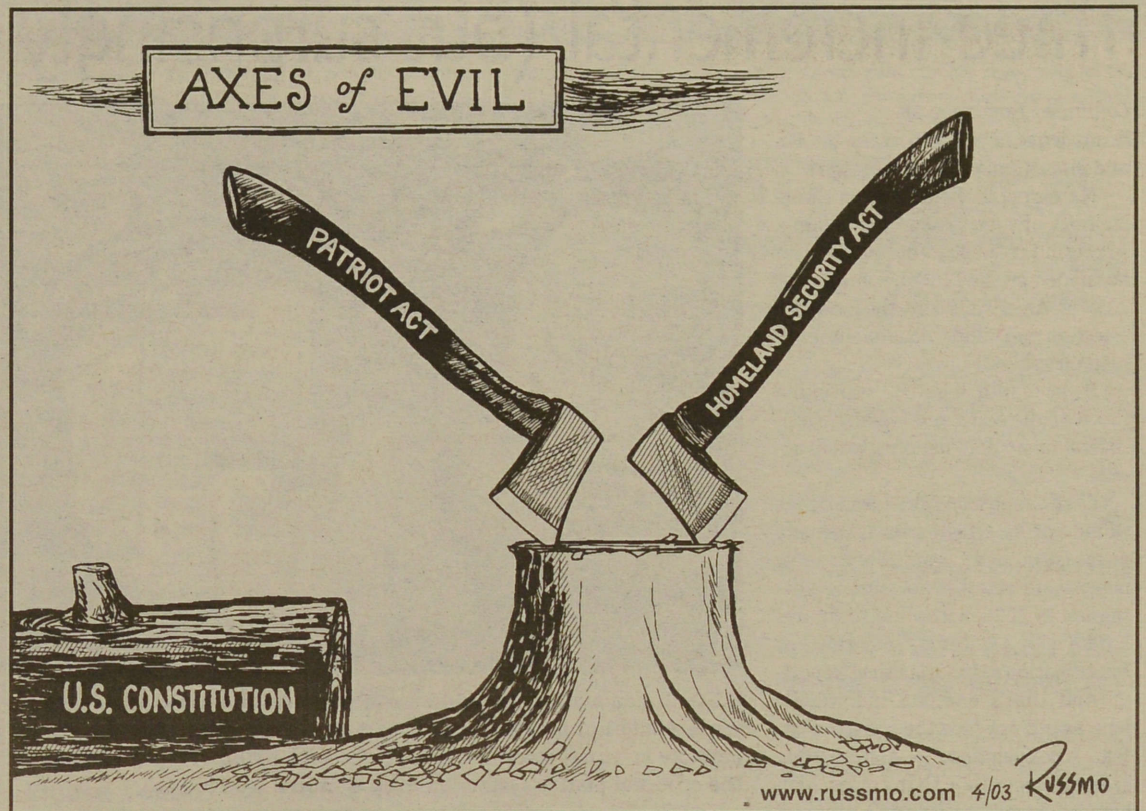
If the "thou shalt not initiate the use of force or violence" non-aggression principle means anything, then it is at the bleeding edge of fear and hysteria where the real believers will stand tall.

You say that Saddam Hussein might attack us first if we don't attack Iraq first? Well, bring it on. That is the risk you take when you assert this creed.

And that is why the really courageous (and truly Libertarian) will hold fast to that principle. If you will not stand by it when lives may be at stake, then brother, you don't believe in it, period. You can call yourself a "libertarian," but you have not accepted the governing belief of this organization.

— STEVE OLIVIER

Sugar Hill, Georgia



Visit the homes?

In the March 2003 MailBox, Carol Moore suggests that certain LP members support an attack on Iraq because they don't quite grasp the libertarian non-intervention principle. She then questions whether staffers at national LPHQ have "failed miserably" at educating LP members about non-interventionism.

In fact, the party's non-interventionist stance is stated in the LP platform, which is available for all to see on the party website. It is mentioned in the party's introductory written materials. It has been the subject of many national LP news releases. It has been highlighted in anti-war demonstration articles in LP News.

What else does Ms. Moore expect LPHQ to do to "educate" Libertarians on this issue? Perhaps she believes that LP staffers should visit the homes of pro-war LP members in order to personally tutor them about non-interventionism.

I agree that the proper libertarian position is to oppose a pre-emptive strike on any nation, including Iraq. Not only is a "pre-emptive strike" an obvious euphemism for "initiation of force," but such an attack would make Americans less safe by inciting terrorist retaliation.

Nevertheless, there will always be some LP members who deviate from the dominant libertarian viewpoint on an issue. The appropriate response is not to desperately search for a way to lay blame for such disagreement.

Instead, anti-war Libertarians should focus on personally communicating with Libertarians on the other side of the fence, and help them to understand why government action is not the answer here.

— JONATHAN TRAGER

Washington, DC

Extreme letdown

What an extreme letdown to read Bill Winter's "news analysis" in the March LP News.

Party of Principle? And what principle is that? To parrot leftist rhetoric

and trust to a despot's gentle nature for our safety? I just can't express how deeply my disappointment runs regarding this interpretation of Libertarian philosophy.

— THOMAS E. PHILIPP

Newbury Park, California

Sovereignty Act

I would like to ask the readers of LP News to do me a small favor — or should I say, do the cause of freedom a small favor — and write their representative in Congress and ask him to co-sponsor and support HR 1146 (American Sovereignty Act), which would end U.S. membership in the United Nations.

With the Republicans in control of the White House and Congress, and George W. Bush calling the U.N. "irrelevant," this is our greatest creative opportunity to force the Republicans to do the right thing.

— KEN MACCUTCHEON

Lebanon, Ohio

A Bowling fan

I saw Michael Moore's *Bowling for Columbine* a few weeks before it won the Oscar for Best Documentary.

I remembered having read a review of it in LP News, so reread it before watching the movie [The Review, January 2003]. The writer said Moore "knocks down a few pins, but he also rolls some gutter balls."

I think he doesn't give Moore enough credit. It wasn't a 300 game, but he did more than knock down a few pins. *Bowling for Columbine* deserved to win an Oscar.

The writer does point out parts of the movie that he appreciated, the same parts that I thought were outstanding. The series of film clips documenting all the assassinations, coups, and insurgencies our government has covertly and overtly sponsored, played over Louis Armstrong's "What a Wonderful World," is something every person should see.

No, Michael Moore is not a libertarian. He does come down more heavily against firearms than any lib-

ertarian would. But overall, I think *Bowling for Columbine* is a very good movie. It may not have all the answers, but it certainly raises all the right questions.

— MATTHEW FRAME

East Canton, Ohio

More bizarre

You're always wondering how to get more members, yet every month the LP News gets more bizarre.

First, there's the "10 reasons why the U.S. should not attack Iraq" [March 2003] right out of the Left's play book.

Then there are the endless articles about drugs. Do you really think this will attract either mainstream Democrats or mainstream Republicans?

Except for the rational statements of Harry Browne and the common sense letters in The MailBox, Libertarians sound like a bunch of old '60s hippie anarchists still longing to "turn on, tune in, and drop out."

— J.E. STREILEIN

Aiken, South Carolina

Editor's note: Concerning the "endless articles about drugs," it depends on what your definition of "endless" is. In the February LP News, there were 33 articles (news articles, Affiliate News items, and News Briefs), of which one was about the War on Drugs. In the March issue, there were 38 articles; three related to drugs. In the April issue, there were 26 articles; two were about drugs. So, in three issues, 6.2% of the articles were about the War on Drugs — which means 93.8% of LP News coverage was devoted to other political topics.

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Three incremental (but surprisingly radical) policy proposals

Continued from Page 18

drugs legal is just too scary for Mr. and Mrs. Middle America.

Marijuana is the only drug that a majority of voters support legalizing. According to a 2001 Zogby poll commissioned by the NORML Foundation, 61% of Americans say they oppose arresting and jailing nonviolent marijuana smokers.

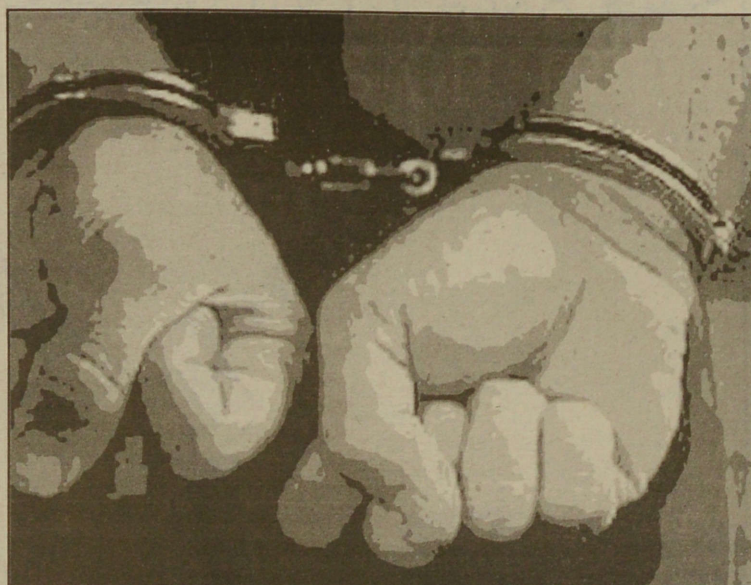
If we could legalize marijuana (both at the state and federal level), several immediate benefits would accrue.

First, about 646,000 Americans would not be arrested for marijuana possession next year. That's how many were arrested for simple possession in 2000, according to figures from the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Report.

And that's 646,000 individuals who would not face the shame, cost, fear, inconvenience — and possible criminal record — that comes with being dragged through the criminal justice system.

Second, it would free billions of dollars — and many of the 19,000 state and local police who work full-time on drug cases — to go after dangerous criminals. In 2000, police arrested only 625,243 violent criminals for murder, rape, robbery, or aggravated assault. That's fewer than the number of pot-smokers they arrested.

According to FBI statistics, only



■ Legalizing marijuana would mean that 646,000 Americans every years would not face the shame, cost, fear, inconvenience — and possible criminal record — that comes with being dragged through the criminal justice system on drug charges.

63.1% of murders and 46.9% of forcible rapes were "cleared" in 2000 — that is, either referred to court or withdrawn. Which means that four of every 10 murderers and five of every 10 rapists still walk free. Imagine how many of those brutal thugs would be behind bars if the time and energy spent arresting 646,000 marijuana users had, instead, been redirected to solving murders and sexual assaults.

Finally, legalizing pot would mean medical marijuana patients would no longer have to fear arrest for the "crime" of trying to treat glaucoma, the side effects of chemotherapy, or other illnesses.

Other countries have already ended the War on Marijuana. In October 2002, for example, Great Britain reclassified marijuana so it is no longer an arrestable offense. It's time for America to follow suit.

Instead, give people the choice. In exchange for giving up any claim on Social Security benefits when they retire, Americans would opt out of the system — and never have to pay FICA taxes again. Their money would be their own, to invest as they see fit.

This idea was originally floated by MSNBC columnist Deroy Murdock in a November 1998 op-ed column for the *Washington Times*. In it, he suggested that the Republican Party should offer a number of "free choice" proposals — for the tax code, Social Security, education, and health care.

Of course, being a Republican, many of Murdock's suggestions didn't really reduce the size of government. For example, for taxes, he proposed allowing people to choose between today's complicated tax code and a simpler (but equally costly) flat tax.

But Murdock made some interesting points. For example, he noted that when Chile switched over to a largely private retirement system in 1981 — and gave workers the choice of staying in the government program — 90% chose the free-market alternative.

Currently, there are 154 million Americans paying into the Social Security system. If what happened in Chile happened here, 138.6 million of them would switch over to free-market retirement programs. Sure, given the stock market's ongoing swan dive, that number might be smaller. But as soon as the next bull market arrives, we'd almost certainly see a massive outflow from the tottering Social Security system.

The beauty of such an optional system, wrote Murdock, is that "those who like big-government solutions can remain tethered to the status quo. [So politicians] will find it increasingly difficult to argue that citizens should be denied even the chance to change their relationship with Uncle Sam."

As for the argument that opting out of the government-run retirement system would "threaten" the program, Murdock asks: Why? "Surely if these public schemes were so splendid, Americans would not flee them in droves."

Of course, the Republican Party ignored Murdock's suggestion, proving again that they are just the "right wing" of the big-government party. We Libertarians could be smarter — and give Americans a choice that millions would eagerly embrace.

Conclusion

Freezing the federal budget. Legalizing marijuana. Offering a Social Security option.

None of these proposals would create a Libertarian nation overnight. They would not abolish the income tax, or end Drug Prohibition, or eliminate Social Security.

But let's be honest: There is no evidence that a majority of today's American voters are ready to support all-or-nothing Libertarian proposals.

And based on who currently wields power in Washington, DC, there is no chance that lawmakers would approve such a revolutionary Libertarian agenda, even if it were somehow introduced as legislation.

So it's not a debate between settling for a minor Libertarian breakthrough, or working for a major Libertarian transformation. It's a matter of taking a first step. Other steps can follow.

General George Patton once said, "A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow."

Freezing the federal budget, legalizing marijuana, and offering a Social Security option would be a good plan for today.

Once those have been accomplished, more "radical" Libertarian proposals would be a perfect plan for tomorrow.

UPCOMING

■ August 2-8, 2003

Cato University Summer Seminar, Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.cato-university.org. Or call: (202) 789-5229.

■ August 3-9, 2003

Mises University, Mises Institute, Auburn, Alabama. Courses, seminars, and reading groups on the Austrian School of economics. Speakers include: Walter Block (author, *Defending the Undefendable*), David Gordon (*Mises Review*), Jörg Guido Hülsmann (Mises Institute), and Richard Vedder (Ohio University). For information, e-mail: pat@mises.org.

■ August 21-24, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, West Cornwall, Connecticut. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

■ October 16-19, 2003

"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, Dawsonville, Georgia. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

■ November 6-9, 2003


"Toward a Free and Virtuous Society" Student Conference, North Bend, Washington. Sponsored by the Acton Institute. An "introduction to the principles of liberty" for students of religion, theology, philosophy, and related fields. For information, call: (616) 454-3080. Or visit: www.acton.org.

■ November 6-9, 2003

Freedom Fest 2003, Bally's and Paris, Las Vegas. Sponsored by Mark Skousen and Holland World Seminars. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.freedomfest2003.com/.

■ Give Americans the option of choosing between Social Security or non-governmental savings accounts.

Don't advocate ending Social Security. Too many Americans hear that and worry that their parents and grandparents — or someone else's parents and grandparents — would end up destitute and living on the street without the "safety net" provided by Social Security.



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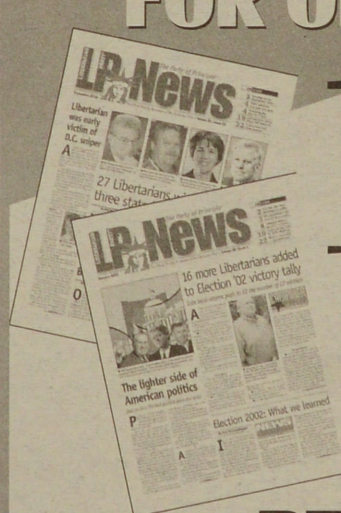
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Fax: (202) 333-0072

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Office hours: 9 am-5 pm ET, M-F

New Member Info: (800) ELECT-US

LP NEWS EDITOR

Bill Winter

CONTACT LP NEWS

1640 Worcester Road, #330-D

Framingham, MA 01702

Phone: (508) 820-7340

Fax: Call for fax

E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

Website: www.LP.org/lpnews

UPCOMING

■ May 1, 2003

Rhode Island LP Convention, Knights of Columbus Hall, Providence. Speakers include Rich Aucoin (2002 Massachusetts LP Lt. Governor candidate). For information, call Dr. Dan Harrop: (401) 331-7778.

■ May 3, 2003

Nevada LP Convention, Delta Saloon, Virginia City. Speakers include Judge James Gray (California Superior Court, Orange County). For information, visit: www.lpnevada.org. Or e-mail: erahn8@yahoo.com.

■ May 9-11, 2003

Ohio LP Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton. Speakers include Neal Boortz (radio talk show host), Doug Bandow (syndicated columnist), Vin Suprynowicz (author, *The Ballad of Carl Draga*), and Sam Staley (Buckeye Institute). For information, call: (937) 845-9980. Or e-mail: pacimj@aol.com. Or visit: www.lpo.org/LP02003Convention.htm.



■ May 10, 2003

Hawaii LP Convention, 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu. Speakers TBA. For information, call Roger Taylor: (808) 352-5683. Or e-mail: roger-taylor@hawaii.rr.com.

■ May 24, 2003

Arkansas LP Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Little Rock. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: gerhard@langguth-us.net. Or: rlreed@hypertech.net.

■ May 24-25, 2003

Free State Project Great Western Conference, Best Inn, Missoula, Montana. Speakers include Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist and author, *The Ballad of Carl Drega*), Claire Wolfe (author, *101 Things to Do 'til the Revolution*), J.J. Johnson (editor, *SierraTimes.com*), Jerry O'Neil (state senator, Montana), Mike Fellows (State Chair, Montana LP), and Jason Sorens (founder, Free State Project). For more information, visit: www.freestateproject.org/.

■ June 6-8, 2003

Missouri LP Convention, Wentzville Holiday Inn, St. Louis. Speakers include Michael Tanner (Cato Institute), Mark Schreiber, (LP Marketing Director), Ben Graydon (Parents United for Responsible Education), Jim Lark (former National LP Chairman), and Gary Nolan and Michael Badnarik (candidates for the 2004 LP presidential nomination). For information, call Greg Tlapek: (877) 868-3487. Or e-mail: gtlapek@aol.com. Or visit: www.lpmo.org.

■ June 13-15, 2003

New Mexico LP Convention, La Posada de Hotel, Albuquerque. Speakers include Richard Winger (publisher, *Ballot Access News*), Dr. Harold Messenheimer (Rio Grande Foundation), and Michael Badnarik (candidate, LP presidential nomination). For information, e-mail: nm_libertarian@yahoo.com.



■ June 19-21, 2003

National Taxpayers Conference '03, Washington Court Hotel, Washington, DC. Sponsored by the National Taxpayer's Union Foundation. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (703) 683-5700. Or write: NTUF, Attn: Conference, 108 North Alfred Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

■ June 28-July 5, 2003

Objectivist Center's Summer Seminar, Bentley College, Waltham, Massachusetts. Speakers include David Mayer (author, *The Constitutional Thought of Thomas Jefferson*) and David Kelley (executive director, Objectivist Center). For information, visit: www.objectivistcenter.org.

■ July 7-11, 2003

International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) World Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania. Speakers include Andrei Illarionov (advisor to Russian President Vladimir Putin), Mart Laar (former prime minister, Estonia), Louis James (Free-Market.net), and Ken Schoolland (author, *Adventures of Jonathan Gullible*). For information, visit: www.isil.org.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 22

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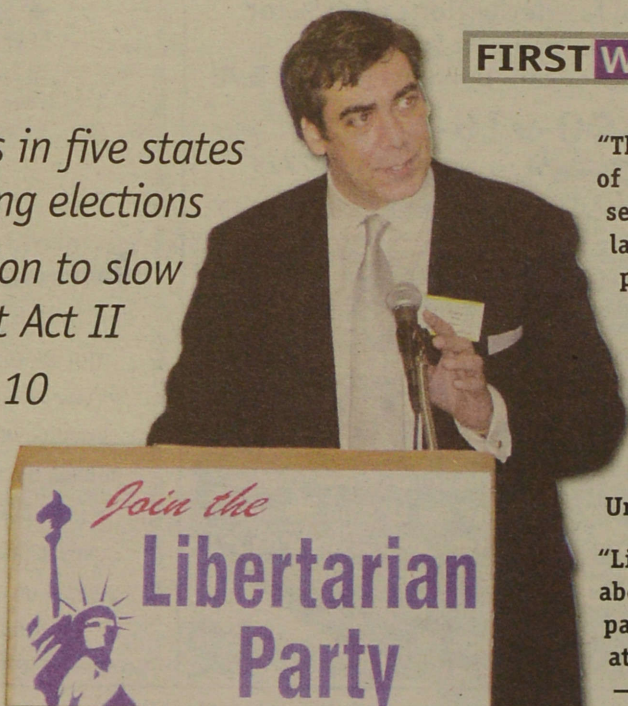
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■ **PAGE 1** LP joins coalition to slow passage of USA/Patriot Act II

■ **PAGE 1** A collection of 10 libertarian viewpoints on the war in Iraq

■ **PAGE 3** LP Platform Committee works to 'reformat' document



FIRST WORD

"The role of government should be to foster and improve the lives of those being governed, not to protect its constituents from themselves. Herein lies the basic belief of the Libertarian Party, the largest third party in America. It believes we can all live together in peace, prosperity and happiness without the government looking over our shoulders at all times. If we can reduce the size of the government, then we can begin to run our country ourselves. We do not need the government watching us and regulating our lives in order to ensure that the United States is a happy and healthy country. We can accomplish it ourselves."

— KEVIN MCABEE, *The Technician* (North Carolina State University), February 12, 2003

"Libertarians, who oppose the war on drugs and restrictions on abortion as well as welfare-state programs, draw from both major parties as well as luring alienated voters who probably wouldn't vote at all if the Libertarians weren't on the ballot."

— *The Denver Post* (Colorado), March 5, 2003