The Party of Principle® Warch 2006 The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party * Volume 35 / Issue 3

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Congressmen try to keep smaller parties down

n Feb. 1, congressional Democrats led by Rep. David Obey of Wisconsin introduced a bill that, if approved, would end viable third-party competition in races for the U.S. House of Representatives.

The bill, H.R. 4694, ironically known as the "Let the People Decide Clean Campaign Act," would give public funds to candidates for the House and would forbid candidates from taking private funds such as contributions from individual donors.

The bill provides funds only for candidates of the two major parties and would essentially ruin the campaign efforts of independent candidates and those from the smaller parties.

For third-party candidates to be eligible for the same funds that Republicans and Democrats would receive, they would have to obtain petition signatures from a huge number of voters — a number equal to 20 percent of the votes cast in the prior election in their district.

Some candidates could collect that many signatures, assuming they could hire help. However, under the proposed legislation, third-party and independent candidates would not be allowed to pay petitioners to collect signatures — meaning that all such candidates would be forced either to collect all of the signatures themselves or to raise enough volunteers to help with the job.

It's likely that many hopeful candidates would be unable to fund their campaigns under this legislation.

H.R. 4694 is yet another attempt by politicians in office to shut down Libertarian Party candidates and other competitive third-party and independent campaigns.

"The Republican and Democratic parties exist to maintain power for their own benefit," said Shane Cory, chief of staff for the national Libertarian Party.

"American voters are waking up to this reality, and as they do, the two parties are trying everything within their power to shut us down."

State chairs meet in Phoenix

By J. Daniel Cloud

t would be nice if, when we have people elected to city council or the board of education, they didn't have to say, 'OK, what do I do now?'" said Patrick Dixon, chairman of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance, in his opening remarks at the group's annual conference, held Jan. 28-29 in Phoenix.

"That's what this conference is about — teaching Libertarians how to govern while in office."

The first session of the conference featured four Libertarians who have been elected to public office: John Buttrick, Pat Dixon, Scott Stewart and David Owens.

One of the most important things to consider when planning a run for office is to "make sure you pick an office that you would actually enjoy holding," said Buttrick, a Superior Court judge in Maricopa County, Ariz. "Do your homework. What is the job description? What can you—and what can you not—do in that position? Are you qualified?

"And the most important thing to remember is, will you be able to advance the cause of liberty in this position, if elected?"

After showing the public — and other office-holders — that they are sincere and actually want to do the job, Libertarians are in a better position to make significant changes in



■ Professional fundraiser Bill Harrison, at right, led a breakout sessions at the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance conference in January, teaching attendees secrets of successful fundraising. One of his major revelations was that most people who donate time to organizations don't donate money "simply because nobody asks." —Photo by LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud

public policy because people learn to trust them. And over time, trust for one Libertarian in office benefits others who are running for office.

Take Patrick Dixon's example: "Everybody knows I'm a Libertarian, and it's really helped the LP locally, I think," said Dixon, who was elected in 2005 to the city council in Lago Vista, Texas. "After I got elected, we had a special legislative election, and my precinct logged more votes for the Libertarian than any other precinct."

Scott Stewart, a member of the Pima County, Ariz., community college board of trustees, emphasized the importance of being on the governing board of a college like his: A Libertarian can help make the college run more efficiently.

The board of trustees hires, fires and sets policy, and thus can change the course of the college.

"Most importantly, you have the ability to help hire the CEO," Stewart said. "If you can manage to hire a CEO who holds some of the same beliefs you do, most of the job is done."

David Owens, township supervisor of Landenberg, Penn., said his primary goal in office is to control spending and taxation.

"If I can just hold the line on spending and not spend any more this year than last year, I'll consider it a job well done," Owens said. "A lot of the job consists of being the little Dutch boy with your finger stuck in the dike" to keep a leak from getting any worse.

Judge Buttrick also spoke at a Saturday night dinner, continuing the theme of being a Libertarian in elected office.

The job of the judge is not to second-guess the legislature, Buttrick noted, saying that too many courts try to rewrite the law.

"And they too often abuse the very clear language of the law," he added. "When a judge makes policy inappropriately, most of the time the judgment is going to be reversed. So what's the point? The trial court is a very poor place to effect change. If you want to effect change, your place is in the legislature."

The one thing a Libertarian in office should remember at all times is that his goal should be to forward liberty, Buttrick said.

"If there comes a day when I think I'm doing more harm than good, I'll quit," he said.

Russell Pierce, a Republican Arizona state representative, also spoke at the dinner.

The role of a legislator should be to pass as few new laws as possible, Pierce said: "We've simply gotten into the practice of running each See STATE LP LEADERS Page 5

LP National Convention approaches

he 2006 Libertarian Party National Convention is rapidly approaching. LP staff members and convention planner Terry Quick have been making plans for the eventful weekend.

The convention will be held at the Hilton Portland & Executive Tower in downtown Portland, Ore.

Business sessions will be held on two days only, July 1-2 (Saturday and Sunday), but there will be three days of events before the business sessions begin.

Informal events will begin on June 28, the LP Platform and Bylaws committees will meet throughout the day on June 29-30 to discuss possible changes to the party's documents, and exhibitors will display their wares beginning at noon on Friday, June 29.

Those who are interested in the proposed Platform and Bylaws changes can get more information by going to www.lpconvention.org and following the links, by checking past issues of <a href="https://www.lpconvention.org/pleatform/index.lpconvention.org/platform/index.lpconvention.org/platform/index.lpconvention.org/platform/index.lpconvention.org/platform/index.lpconvention.org/lpl

Forum discussions have been ongoing at these sites for many months, giving LP members an opportunity to familiarize themselves with the proposed changes well before the convention.

Key events at the business meetings will be the election of representatives and officers of the Libertarian National Committee, and voting on the Platform and Bylaws.

In addition to the business meetings, there will be a host of speakers at meals on Saturday and Sunday; receptions will be held on Saturday and Sunday for conference attendees; and the weekend will close with a gala event for party members on Sunday night.

Admission to the various receptions is limited and is only included with certain convention packages.

For details, see the convention ad (on page 8), go to lpconvention. org, or call (202) 333-0008. If you want to attend specific events at the convention, be sure to sign up for the correct convention package.

Other events are limited to select groups of people.

For example, Saturday night's Liberty Pledge reception will be limited to people who give on a monthly basis to the LP's Liberty Pledge Club; there will be an invitation-only dinner on Saturday night for registrants who purchased the Chairman's Package and are members of the Chairman's Advisory Council; and there will be a special Monday morning breakfast for Torch Club members.

Many events, of course, are open to all convention delegates, and there is a low-priced (\$89) package for people who wish only to serve as delegates and attend the business sessions.

Documents are available at lp-convention.org for all who plan to serve as delegates, including a list of frequently asked questions about the LP Bylaws and voting methods, a list of the convention committees, and other information for ensuring that the convention goes smoothly.

LP staff members are currently working on the list of speakers, along with the times they will be speaking, and that information will be available soon.

It is strongly suggested that those planning to attend the convention register early, and call the hotel to reserve rooms. To reserve your room for the convention, call the Portland Hilton at (503) 226-1611, and be sure to ask for the Libertarian Party room block.

NEWS BRIEFS

Federal judge throws out Ohio election suit

ederal District Judge James Carr has thrown out a lawsuit concerning the demanded Ohio recount of the 2004 presidential election.

The National Voting Rights Institute filed the suit on behalf of Green Party candidate David Cobb and Libertarian Party candidate Michael Badnarik, saying the recount should be completed before the vote was certified on Dec. 6, 2004.

Because of the timing of the recount, it would not be completed until after the Electoral College made President George W. Bush's reelection official on Dec. 13, 2004 — and thus was in violation of federal law, the institute complained in its suit.

And the complaint was accurate: The recount wasn't completed until Dec. 28, 2004, well after the Electoral College voted.

Unless the institute appeals Judge Carr's decision, the sole remaining suit dealing with the Ohio recount is one filed by the League of Women Voters in that state.

According to newspaper reports, representatives of the institute said a decision to appeal would be left up to Badnarik and Cobb. As of *LP News* press time, no appeal had been filed.

The League of Women Voters claims in its suit that some Ohioans' voting rights were infringed by the state's faulty elections system, as some voters were forced to wait in line for several hours because there weren't enough voting machines — causing some voters to not be able to vote due to a lack of time.

Steve Kubby in jail for drug possession

s reported in the February issue of *LP News*, a Canadian judge ruled in mid-January that medical marijuana activist Steve Kubby would have to leave Canada, to which he fled in 2001 to avoid serving a sentence stemming from his 2000 conviction of possession of drugs.

When he returned to the San Francisco International Airport on Jan. 26, Kubby was arrested and taken to the Placer County Jail, where he is serving his 120 days of incarceration.

Kubby's attorneys are reportedly working on a plea agreement with the district attorney's office, seeking to serve his sentence under house arrest. However, the district attorney may seek a longer sentence for Kubby, due to his flight to Canada, which violated his probation.

While in jail, Kubby is taking Marinol, a synthetic drug that mimics marijuana — which Kubby and his doctors say he needs to keep adrenal cancer in remission. He has reportedly been coerced into signing a waiver that absolves the county of any legal responsibility if he dies while in custody.

Kubby was convicted of possession of psilocybin (peyote) and mescaline, but was acquitted of the charge of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

According to newspaper reports from the time of his arrest, Placer County sheriff's deputies found 265 marijuana plants and other drugs at his home in a 1999 raid that was prompted by an anonymous tip.

In 1998 Kubby was the Libertarian Party's candidate for governor of California. Earlier, he was one of the authors of California's Prop. 215, an act to legalize the "compassionate use" of marijuana, which California voters approved in 1996.

ATF director caused \$19M in cost overruns

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives was found to have \$19 million in cost overruns that stem from changes and upgrades made by ATF Director Carl J. Truscott in construction of the bureau's new headquarters.

A Senate subcommittee and the Justice Department inspector general's office are investigating the cost overruns, the *Washington Post* reported.

According to press accounts, Truscott quickly cancelled some of the upgrades he had planned for the new headquarters after the Justice Department inspector general's office was made aware of the

About \$300,000 of the proposed upgrades at the new headquarters were for Truscott's new director suite that included a \$65,000 conference table and more than \$100,000 for hardwood floors, custom trim, and other items.

The ATF director has also come under criticism for what some say is an excessive security detail. Truscott uses five full-time agents and two armored Chevrolet Suburbans, at a yearly cost of \$1 million. This large security detail was not employed by previous ATF directors, the Washington Post reported.

Some ATF officials stated that many of the cost overruns could have been avoided, and that Truscott should have foreseen them.

Truscott also hired an additional 500 employees over the objections of subordinates, despite not having sufficient work space for them.

Three candidates announce plans to run for LNC chair

ibertarian National Committee Chair Michael Dixon has announced his intention to seek re-election to his position of leadership on the national committee.

He faces two challengers for the position, and delegates to the 2006 LP convention will choose among the candidates.

All other LNC representatives and officers will also be elected at the convention, which will be held in Portland, Ore., on the weekend preceding July 4.

So far, Dixon's opponents for the chairmanship are LNC member Bill Redpath and George Phillies.

Michael Dixon

Dixon is a self-employed sales and management consultant in the nonprofit and financial services industries.

Prior to being elected LNC chairman, Dixon served as an at-large member of the LNC for two terms — 1998-2000 and 2002-2004. During that time he was also chairman of the Platform Committee and was on the LP's strategic planning team.

Dixon said he is seeking re-election because the party is in the middle of two processes that he would like to see completed.

"We've started, but haven't completed, our conversion to the zero-dues environment, and we are working on becoming a national party that is strongly focused on electoral politics," he said.

"Both of these processes started with the strategic plan of 2001, and I've been involved since the beginning of that. I would like to continue in this position as we continue moving the party forward."

Dixon said he is pleased to see that LP members and candidates are getting the training he sees as essential to the party's progress.

"I think training and educating our members to do politics is something we need to do," he said. "The current form of the Libertarian Leadership School is not something I would have foreseen, but it is working and it will continue to improve."

Bill Redpath

Bill Redpath currently serves as an at-large member of the LNC, and is the ballot access project manager for the national party.

Redpath was LNC treasurer for two terms — 1991-1993 and 2003-2004 — and currently is treasurer of FairVote, the Center for Voting and Democracy, which is an electoral system reform organization.

He has run for office as a Libertarian three times in Virginia — for the House of Delegates in 1993, for the state Senate in 1998, and for governor in 2001. In his campaign for governor, he and lieutenant governor candidate Gary Reams became the first Libertarian candidates for statewide office to be on the Virginia ballot.

Redpath was chairman of the Virginia LP during the 1989-1991 term; he has also served as vice chairman and treasurer for the Virginia LP.

He was chairman of the national LP's Ballot Access Committee in 1990-1997. In 1992 and 1996, the LP presidential ticket was on all U.S. ballots. This marked the first time in American history that a "minor" political party placed its presidential ticket on the ballot in all states in successive presidential elections.

Redpath is vice president of consulting for a financial consulting and valuation firm, specializing in the appraisal of broadcasting, cable and telecommunications properties. He is a CPA and a chartered financial analyst.

Redpath said he hopes "to get the national party to be more politically active, to get a political director back in LP headquarters, and to make ballot access a core function of the national LP once again."

"We have suffered a tremendous decline in the number of U.S. House candidates in recent years, and we would have even fewer candidates if we didn't have ballot access," Rednath said.

In addition to ballot access, he said, the LP should be more involved in the drive for electoral reform in the United States — to push for proportional representation and

to "actually be a force in state and federal politics."

George Phillies

George Phillies is a professor of physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass. He has never served on the LNC (he ran for chair in 2000, 2002 and 2004, elections which were won by Jim Lark, Geoff Neale and Michael Dixon, respectively) but has been very active in state and county Libertarian organizations.

In 1996-1997 Phillies served on the Libertarian Association of Massachusetts' state board, and he is a cofounder of the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association, for which he was chairman for three years.

He ran for Congress in 1998.

In addition, Phillies has written two books on LP politics — one about local organization and one about the 1996 and 2000 presidential elections. He has also published a novel, a collection of short stories, a physics textbook and 130 scientific papers.

The LNC, Phillies said, should have "an effective subcommittee structure, member activists willing to work hard for the national party, serious financial records and sound budgeting, and a focus on doing work" instead of being a "board of directors."

Phillies said he wants to see the national party put more emphasis on attaining ballot access, promoting voluntarism, recruiting and training candidates, and "putting libertarian issues and stands in the public eye" via increased outreach to the public.

"Our party's greatest resource is the time and energy of its members," he said. "Fundraising is important [but] volunteer time is more valuable. Our national party should ... assist libertarian volunteers and put our volunteers in action."

For information on being a delegate to the national convention, which is the only way to cast a vote and help determine who will be the LP's next national chairman, visit www.lpconvention.org.

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NATIONAL CHAIR:

Michael Dixon 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Suite 100 Washington, DC 20037 E-mail: chair@LP.org

NEWS THE THE PROPERTY OF THE P

J. Daniel Cloud

Libertarian National
Committee, Inc.

EDITOR EMERITUS: Karl Hess * 1923-1994 Send News, Letters, Essays,
Photographs, or Advertising:
J. Daniel Cloud
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 333-0008 x226

Send Address Changes To: Libertarian Party 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 Washington, DC 20037 Or call: (202) 333-0008 x 221

E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

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

AFFILIATE NEWS

Libertarians standing up for gun rights and free elections

■ CALIFORNIA

County LP gears up to oppose tax increase

The Libertarian Party of Monterey County is preparing to spear-head a coalition of taxpayers' groups in opposing a sales tax increase the county's board of supervisors is considering putting on the ballot in June.

"Our network of local taxpayer associations is much stronger since we help defeat Measure Q in 2003," said Lawrence Samuels, vice chair of the county LP. "With the help of various environmental groups, we believe this will be a much easier tax to defeat."

The proposed additional tax of one-half cent per dollar for transportation is just a ploy to hide city and county governments' failures to allocate enough funds to maintain roads, Samuels said.

"Why fund any program properly or efficiently when politicians can simply scare the taxpayers into forking over more money?" Samuels asked. "This only rewards failure, and promotes irresponsible spending."

"Plus, some of the money will not be used for roads. Instead, a portion of the funding will be earmarked for an expensive and money-losing light rail system that could eventually cost taxpayers \$75 million to \$230 million."

In addition, California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger recently proposed a \$222.6 billion public works program for the state, and Monterey County got full funding for its roads this year from the state coffers, Samuels added.

Along with that, an additional \$18 million in federal funding for transportation will also be sent to Monterey County.

"We can't continue raising taxes," Samuels said. "It's time for politicians to downsize government and lower taxes."

■ COLORADO

LP fights heightened seat belt regulation

On Jan. 24, representatives of the Colorado Safety Belt Coalition held a rally in front of the state capitol to support a bill that would standardize seat belt laws across the state.

The bill, which the Libertarian Party is opposing, would make safety belt violations a primary offense.

The proposal (HB 06-1125) would also repeal the requirement that an offender could only be given a ticket for not wearing a seat belt if he or she was initially pulled over for some other (real) offense. A lobbying firm called Corporate Advocates was hired by seat-belt law supporters to push for the heightened law — and the coalition is funded by a grant from the National Highway Traffic Administration, according to Libertarian officials in the state

"The use of our tax dollars to fund a campaign promoting legislation creating more victimless crimes is completely outrageous!" said Travis Nicks, chairman of the Colorado

Instead of relying ever more strongly on increased laws to enforce behavior, Colorado legislators need to recognize that "people are responsible for making their own choices concerning wearing seat belts," Nicks continued, noting that such "regulations serve only to infringe upon personal freedom."

The bill is currently under consideration by the Transportation and Energy Committee.

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

State libertarians promote gun rights

Libertarians and other members of the Free State Project have convinced state Rep. Paul Hopfgarten to sponsor a bill that would prevent officials from confiscating legally owned guns from New Hampshire residents during a state of emergency, as occurred in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina.

The bill (HB 1639-FN) was introduced in the January session of the New Hampshire legislature.

New Hampshire already has some of the most reasonable gun laws in the nation. However, some Granite State residents fear that the New Orleans incident — where federal authorities tried to confiscate all guns, even those that were legally owned — could lead state and federal authorities to believe that gun confiscation is a reasonable step to take in response to any emergency.

■ PENNSYLVANIA

LP joins group trying to reform access to ballot

Pennsylvania Libertarians have joined with representatives of the Green and Constitution parties to oppose the state's oppressive ballot-access laws. According to press reports, third-party candidates running for statewide offices this year will need to collect 34 times as many signatures as the two major parties if they want to appear on the ballot in November.

Under current law, Democrats and Republicans will need to gather only 2,000 signatures this year in order to appear on the statewide ballot, while third-party and independent candidates will be forced to collect more than 67,000 signatures.

"This inequity seems to violate provisions of the state constitution requiring all elections to be 'fair and equal,'" says a press release sent out by the state LP last fall, in a classic understatement.

"We must run a state-wide candidate in order to maintain our minor party status," state LP Chair David Jahn said. "The two old parties have their drawbridges up and moats filled. These insurmountable barriers are obviously designed to protect incumbents."

The major parties' drive to protect incumbents will be especially strong in 2006, as Pennsylvania's Clean Sweep movement gathers steam, promising to kick as many incumbents out of the state legislature as possible this year.

Minor party candidates sometimes are so burdened by the ballotaccess requirements that they can't stay the course and have to drop out of races.

Ken Krawchuk, the Pennsylvania LP's candidate in the U.S. Senate race in 2005, told the *Beaver County Times* in mid-January that he wasn't defeated by either of his opponents: "The law defeated me," he said.

Krawchuk was one of the thirdparty candidates who recently spoke before the House State Government Committee in hopes of changing the ballot-access law.

Members of the Libertarian, Green and Constitution parties have come together to form the Pennsylvania Ballot Access Coalition, asking the state government to adopt election code to mirror Delaware's.

Delaware law allows automatic listing of all third-party candidates on the general election ballot if the party's membership amounts to at least .05 percent of registered voters in the state. There would be no signature requirement for parties that meet this standard.

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POLITICS 2006

Forest land, Batman and hybrid vehicles

By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR

■ Legendary comic book writer Frank Miller recently announced that in his next graphic novel, Batman will pursue Osama bin Laden and al Qaeda, after the terrorists attack Gotham City. The proposed name of the book? Holy Terror, Batman! Unfortunate title, but maybe Miller is onto something. After all, historic comic book heroes (including Superman and Captain America) went after the Nazis and Hitler. If Miller can keep Batman



from getting sidetracked by imaginary threats from the pursuit of bin Laden, maybe George W. Bush should hire the writer as a strategist. The graphic novel is expected to hit shelves in 2007.

- A series of cartoons mocking Islam by caricaturing Mohammed were recently published in a Danish newspaper, leading to global comment. Some columnists said American newspapers should not print the inflammatory cartoons, while others said every newspaper should print them on the front page. I'm with the first group: These cartoons shouldn't be printed, but not for the reasons usually given. I don't mind insulting someone. Political cartoons do that every day. No, I think these cartoons should not be reprinted because they aren't insightful, clever, well-timed or particularly meaningful. They just aren't very good and that's reason enough not to reprint them.
- Kim Epperson, a former Libertarian Party candidate in California, died recently under "suspicious circumstances," leading police to wonder whether his death was a homicide. Epperson, of Pacifica, Calif., was found dead in his home in mid February. There was no suicide note or apparent history of illness.
- The Bush administration has unveiled a proposal to sell up to



200,000 acres of national forest. Much of the land to be offered up for sale is in California. The land sale is part of a Forest Service plan to raise \$800 million over the next five years to help support education in 41 states. The Bureau of Land Management also reportedly plans to sell federal lands to raise up to \$182 million. Combined, the Forest Service and the BLM own approximately 35 percent of California. If the Forest Service would only sell

the other 193 million acres of U.S. land it owns, we'd be on the road to a libertarian system.

- At a Feb. 5 appearance sponsored by the Cascade Policy Institute, ABC News' "20/20" correspondent John Stossel reportedly told a crowd of about 300 that he thinks War on Drugs is a mistake. Despite this, people tend to label him a conservative, he noted. "I'm not a conservative," he said. "I'm a libertarian. I'm a classical liberal."
- A Massachusetts court ruled Feb. 14 that Walmart pharmacies in the state must stock a drug known as the "morning after" pill. The corporation says it doesn't stock the "emergency contraception" drug simply because there isn't enough demand for it. Are Walmart executives stretching the truth in giving this explanation? Who cares? It's a private enterprise and should be allowed to sell what it wants. What's next forcing all brothels in Nevada to stock "abstinence only" literature for their clients?
- Two Democratic politicians Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois and Rep. Jay Inslee of Washington have proposed a piece of legislation called the "Health Care for Hybrids" Act. Under the act, the federal government would use tax money to help American auto manufacturers pay their employees' health insurance bills. In return, the automobile industry would use the money to develop fuel-efficient vehicles like the hybrids recently introduced to the American market. Leave it to the federal government to bribe car companies to do something the smart ones are already doing (without the bribe).
- The Internet Movie Database (IMDB) now has a review of Aaron Russo's new film, "America: From Freedom to Fascism." Russo was a candidate for the LP's 2004 presidential nomination. "The viewer comes away with an understanding that ... we are all targets of a runaway government, intent on exerting its power and expressing its will despite the law," the reviewer notes. The film is in the final stages of post-production. Russo reportedly intends to enter it in the Cannes film festival in May.

THE PROFILE

Sci-Fi Author Terry Pratchett

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

erry Pratchett's best-selling Discworld series is famous for its laugh-out-loud humor, wide-ranging satire, and surreal setting. (The books take place on a disc-shaped world which is supported on the backs of four giant elephants, which stand atop an enormous turtle swimming through space.)

The novels are also conspicuous for their libertarian sensibilities; Pratchett sprinkles them with wry potshots at government, taxes, and politicians. Some examples:

• On the role of government: "Trickery is what humans are all about... They're so keen on tricking one another all the time that they elect governments to do it for them." — The Amazing Maurice and his

Educated Rodents (2001)



- On gun control: "Confiscate all weapons, and crime would go down. It made sense. The flaw ... was this: Criminals don't obey the law. It's more or less a requirement for the job." Night Watch (2002)
- On the government: "He was part of the government, wasn't he? Governments took money off people. That's what they were for." — Going Postal (2004)

This libertarian perspective is no fluke. In an April 2000 interview on <u>SFSite.com</u>, Pratchett described himself as "someone

who is something of a libertarian.

His novel Night Watch won the Prometheus Award, given by the Libertarian Futurist Society for the best libertarian science fiction novel of the year. A post on the English libertarian blog samizdata.net (Oct. 20, 2003) reported: "Terry Pratchett won this year's Prometheus Award... I was there when he accepted it. He said explicitly in his acceptance speech that he is a libertarian...."

The creator of Discworld was born in 1948 in Beaconsfield, England. After graduating from college, he worked as a reporter for several newspapers in southwest England.

In 1971, he published his debut novel, *The Carpet People*, a fantasy about a tiny civilization living in a carpet. In 1983, he published his first Discworld novel, *The Color of Magic*. The Discworld books quickly became popular, allowing Pratchett to start writing full-time in 1987.

On his Web site, www.terrypratchettbooks.com, Pratchett said the Discworld series "started out as a parody of all the fantasy that was around in the big boom of the early '80s, then turned into a satire on just about everything." He's not exaggerating.

The Discworld novels satirize Shakespeare, the British driving exam, folk songs, journalism, "Pulp Fiction," ethnic strife, religion, educational bureaucracy, Greek philosophy, and H.P. Lovecraft — and that's just for starters. If you look hard, you'll also spot commentary on today's world. Pratchett told *Locus Magazine* (December 1999), "The last 10 books, maybe, have been subtly influenced by moderately current affairs."

Add Pratchett's dizzying array of characters, humorous footnotes, adroit plotting and clever one-liners — and you have the recipe for massive success. The books have spawned a lucrative merchandising industry, several plays, board and computer games, and regular Discworld conventions.

Thanks to Discworld, Pratchett has become one of his generation's most popular writers. In a 2003 poll conducted in the U.K. by the BBC, five of his novels made the list of 100 all-time "Best Loved" books — tying him with Charles Dickens.

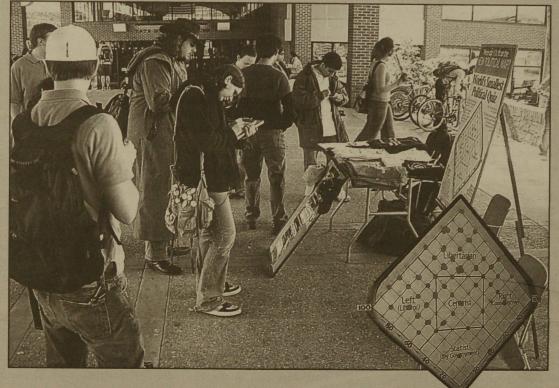
As of 2005, his books had sold an estimated 40 million copies around the world and had been translated into 33 languages.

In 1989, Pratchett's novel *Pyramids* won the British Fantasy Award. In 1998, he was awarded an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to literature. And in 2002, his *The Amazing Maurice and His Educated Rodents* won the Carnegie Medal for best children's novel.

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



Mark Augustyn (left, in black) of Think Libertarian (thinklibertarian.com) joined campus Libertarians at the University of Georgia in Athens for a Feb. 15 outreach event. Pictured with Augustyn is Steven Lindell, president of the UGA Libertarian group. Below are a few of the approximately 100 people who took the World's Smallest Political Quiz at the booth, which was set up at the university's Tate Plaza. And at the bottom is the completed WSPQ chart, showing where the various quiz-takers placed themselves in the four-way political map. As Augustyn noted: "You can see from the picture that there is hope!" For those unfamiliar with the chart, the top quarter of the chart is the Libertarian segment.



Where does liberty rank in your hierarchy of needs?

What would <u>you</u> do to achieve and retain the liberty this country once guaranteed?

People often move for good reasons jobs, family, relationships, or just a change of scenery.
Have you ever considered moving
to protect our very freedom?

lan Bernard, host of the hit libertarian talk show <u>Free Talk Live</u>, and longtime supporter and promoter of the Free State Project, challenges you to be one of The First 1000. Ian doesn't want to wait until the FSP has 20,000 signers. He wants to move now - but he wants 999 fellow libertarians to move to New Hampshire with him.

Much has already been accomplished in New Hampshire with over 100 FSP early movers.
Imagine what 1000 could do!

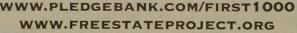
Find out more about The First 1000 at www.freestateproject.org/first1000



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BECOME ONE OF THE FIRST 1000.





State LP leaders learn about governing as Libertarians

Continued from Page 1 others' lives. We as legislators do so much damage when we continue to pass a new law every day."

Pierce said "appreciates the values [Libertarians] stand for, and he is trying to work in an essentially libertarian direction



"Your liber- Buttrick

ties go away little by little, and little by little I hope we can get them back," he

Governing as a Libertarian was not, however, the only topic of discussion at the conference.

Other sessions included training in how to follow the Federal Election Commission's campaign finance laws, fundraising at the state level, cultivating media — as



■ Pierce

well as discussions of eminent domain, the ongoing development of a service agreement between the national LP and the state affiliates, and proposed alterations to the LP Platform.

Paula Edwards, the national LP's consultant on FEC filing, spoke to a room about half full of state treasurers, only two of whom raised their hands



Edwards

when she asked how many currently file with the FEC.

Edwards assumed all state parties want to "bring in enough money that we can be politically effective, as one attendee said, and that was apparently a false assumption.

Many attendees asked Edwards whether it's possible to avoid filing with the FEC. "Yes, you could stay under the radar, but it means not taking part in elections other than local elections," Edwards noted.

But there's no real reason not to file, she added, saying that the requirements for filing are not nearly as onerous for state and local parties as they are for the LNC.

While "it's possible to have an active federal candidate in a state and not file the state with the FEC, ... it's very tricky," she said. "It's simpler to just go ahead and file."

One attendee at Edwards' presentation noted later that the population in the FEC discussion decreased rapidly when it became clear that Edwards wasn't going to explain how to avoid filing with the FEC calling it "a disheartening sight for those who take politics seriously."

On the issue of fundraising,

Phoenix-based fundraiser Bill Harrison pointed out that "the best way in the world to raise money is to have one person ask another person for a gift.

One of the most damaging myths about fundraising is that many organizations feel they can't afford to hire a professional fundraiser. The truth, Harrison said, is that "you can't afford not to."

In a panel discussion, Adrian Moore of the Reason Foundation said there is actually something

encouraging about the Supreme Court's 2005 ruling on eminent domain — "the tremendous backlash. This is a purely populist issue.

The easiest way to protect land from eminent domain confiscation would be to "actively restrict its use to those things that have long been considered allowed by the Constitution," he said.

"The bottom line is, the cities are going to use the Kelo decision in any and every way they can," said Tom Rawles, a member of the Mesa,

Ariz., city council. "The court said, basically, We are going to defer to a local government's majority vote on when it's OK to deny a constitutional right.

One of the last items on the conference agenda was an attempt to define the relationship between the national LP and state LP affiliates.

The plan was for the LNC to present the state chairs with a proposal, and allow the state parties to work on it while in Phoenix, said LNC member George Squyres of Arizona,

who planned the LSLA conference.

"But that didn't happen," he said. "Nothing was prepared before this conference.

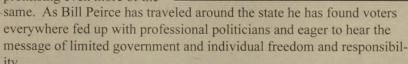
After a lengthy brainstorming session, the attendees formed two committees to come up with a proposed affiliate service agreement, in hopes of getting something together to present at the LNC's meeting in Charlotte, NC, on March 11-12.

But it doesn't look like a proposal will be ready by that time, Squyres

and paid for by Peirce for OHIO committee (William C. Ferry Treasurer 2006 Ohio MAKE OHIO FREE AGAI

Ohio ranks near the wrong end of all of the recent rankings of the states: highest tax burden, least economic freedom, worst environment for small business survival. It is also the 48th fastest growing state in population.

The major parties just don't get the message. Ohio has been misgoverned by Republicans for decades and the Democrats are promising even more of the



While the Republican and Democrat parties are torn by bitter primary battles, the Peirce campaign has obtained the endorsement of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, has selected Mark Noble for the Lieutenant Governor slot on the ticket, and has launched the drive to obtain the 5,000 valid signatures needed to secure a place on the ballot.

FREE TO PROSPER - FREE TO LIVE

Bill Peirce will devote full time to carrying the message of freedom to the people of Ohio. Government has failed so badly in the State that voters are ready to listen to a Libertarian message. The only thing we lack is the money to get the message to the people. This is a campaign that can make a difference. Please help us.

About Dr. Bill Peirce

After earning an A.B. degree from Harvard in 1960 and a Ph.D. in Economics from Princeton in 1966, Peirce taught in the Economics Department of Case Western Reserve University for more than 35 years. During 6 of those years he served as chairman of the Economics Department. He was named Professor Emeritus of Economics in 2002. He was a visiting scholar at the University of Maastricht, The Netherlands, in 1988-89, and at the University of Mannheim, Germany, in 1996.

Bill Peirce has published books on Bureaucratic Failure, Energy Economics, and Technological Change. He has also written articles, chapters, and short pieces on labor economics, the extractive industries, privatization, the European Union, and local public finance. Teaching specialties include Public Finance, Public Choice, and Energy Economics.

Peirce is a Trustee of the American Institute for Economic Research and serves as Academic Advisor to the Heartland Institute and the Buckeye Institute. He is a member of the American Economic Association, the Public Choice Society, and the International Association of Energy Econo-

Bill Peirce has been married for 39 years and has 3 children

in OH is \$10,000. go to WV	VIN! PLEASE DONATE: Ww.peirceforohio.com Int to help Peirce win for Liberty! AMOUNT: AMOUNT: COT! AMOUNT: AMOUNT:
Give a one-time contribution	CC# EXP SIGN
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PEIRCE FOR OHIO 30628 DETROIT RD. #174 WESTLAKE, OH 44145	phone email This information is requested by the state of OH: Occupation Employer

TALKING POINTS

Illegal searches, Iranian nukes, and 'a speech from the throne'

Approval rating

Percentage approval rating of Bill Clinton the day after impeachment and George W. Bush in November [2005], respectively: 73, 37 -HARPER'S INDEX

Harper's Magazine January 2006

■ Iranian Nukes

A consensus is gradually emerging in the United States that Washington and its allies must take whatever action is necessary to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear

Various options are advocated, from U.N.-mandated economic sanctions to air strikes on suspected nuclear installations to active subversion of the mullah-controlled regime in Tehran.

Advocates of a hardline policy toward Tehran argue that if Iran acquires nuclear weapons, it will use those weapons against Israel, its hated adversary. Fears of such a scenario have risen sharply in recent months following comments by Iran's president that Israel should be wiped off the map.

Such a comment is certainly reprehensible, but does it negate the long-standing realities of deter-

Israel has between 150 and 300 nuclear weapons of its own. Even if Iran does go forward with its nuclear program, it will not be able to build more than a dozen or so weapons

It would be suicidal for a country with a tiny nuclear arsenal to attack a county with a large arsenal. In all likelihood, rhetoric about wiping Israel off the map is merely ideologi-

Israel has more than a sufficient capability to deter an Iranian nuclear attack.

-TED GALEN CARPENTER FoxNews.com February 8, 2006

Search and seizure

When two strangers tried to force their way into his Baltimore home, David Scheper slammed the door on them, called 911 and grabbed a gun as they smashed in the glass in his

That was his big mistake. It turns out the two men were Baltimore detectives, and Scheper was charged with illegal discharge of a firearm.

The detectives, who Scheper said didn't identify themselves as police officers, were looking for a housemate Scheper had kicked out weeks

They didn't have an arrest warrant or a search warrant when they first tried to enter his home. But they did get a search warrant around two hours after arriving at

Prosecutors later dropped charges against Scheper. But he still hasn't gotten back guns, personal records and \$1,440 in cash seized by the police. Nor has be been compensathome he says the police caused.

-CHARLES OLIVER Reason.com January 31, 2006

State of the Union

"A speech from the throne," Thomas Jefferson called it, with republican disdain. He didn't know the half of it.

The Constitution requires that the president "from time to time give to the Congress information

of the State of the Union, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

But it does not mandate the modern ritual of the State of the Union address, which consists of a passel of promises and demands on the public fisc, greeted with repeated standing ovations from members of a

coordinate branch. That ritual reflects the growing dominance of the presidency in our political system, and our retreat from limited, constitutional government.

In contrast, early presidents often struck a note of modesty and self-restraint: After his third State of the Union, Washington wrote that "motives of delicacy" had deterred him "from introducing any topick which relates to legislative matters, lest it should be suspected that he wished to influence the question before it."

Washington most often referred to the office he held as the mere "chief magistrate"; modern presidents tend to prefer the title 'Commander in Chief," and at times seem to forget that that title merely makes the president commander of the U.S. armed forces, not commander of the nation as a whole.

-GENE HEALY Cato Daily Commentary January 31, 2006

It was on this day in 1690 the first paper money in America was issued, which of course then led to the creation of the Republican Party. It was also on this day in 1913 that Congress was granted the right to levy taxes on your income, which, of course, led to the creation of the Democratic Party.

-JAY LENO The Tonight Show February 3, 2006

Big budget

"President George W. Bush will propose shrinking an array of domestic programs and cut billions from the Medicare health program when he sends Congress a \$2.7 trillion budget on Monday," according to Reuters.

"With the shortfall this year expected to top \$400 billion, Bush has vowed to find \$14 billion in savings by trimming or scrapping 141 programs. He also wants to squeeze \$36 billion in cost savings from Medicare over the next five years, partly by curbing the growth in reimbursements to hospitals.'

Stephen Slivinski, director of Cato's budget studies, comments: "If Congress rubber stamps the Presicurity Agency broke ranks with the White House on Tuesday and called for a full Congressional inquiry into the Bush administration's domestic eavesdropping program.

The lawmaker, Representative Heather A. Wilson of New Mexico, chairwoman of the House Intelligence Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence, said in an interview that she had "serious concerns" about the surveillance

By withholding information about its operations from many lawmakers, she said, the administration has deepened her apprehension about whom the agency is monitoring and why.

Ms. Wilson, who was a National Security Council aide in the administration of President Bush's father, is the first Republican on either the House's Intelligence Committee or the Senate's to call for a full Congressional investigation into the

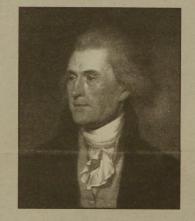
Many Republicans have strongly backed President Bush's power to

use every tool at his disposal to fight terrorism, but four of the 10 Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee voiced concerns about the program at a hearing where Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales testified on Monday.

A growing number of Republicans have called in recent days for Congress to consider amending federal

wiretap law to address the constitutional issues raised by the N.S.A. operation.

-ERIC LICHTBLAU The New York Times February 8, 2006





We've come the wrong way, maybe.

dent's new supplemental request for

Iraq and Katrina relief, the growth

of the 2006 budget could jump to

to's tax policy studies, comments:

cut federal spending and reduce

the deficit. The promise to cut \$14

billion out of next year's spending

seems almost like a joke, given that

it represents just 4 percent of the

\$400 billion deficit and that overall

spending will rise about \$200 bil-

in Congress keep claiming that they

are getting spending under control

and that spending growth rates are

falling. That is simply not correct.

The ... massive 43 percent spending

increase the past five years (FY2001

to FY2006), shows that federal gov-

ernment growth is completely out-

of-control under the Republicans."

"President Bush and Republicans

Chris Edwards, director of Ca-

around 10 percent."

lion just this year.

-GREG GARNER, EDITOR

Cato Daily Dispatch

February 6, 2006

"President Bush's State of the Union speech indicated that the 2007 bud-Big budget II get will make no serious attempt to

President Bush unveiled his new \$2.2 trillion budget. Yeah, the president settled on \$2 trillion after being told that \$2 bazillion was not a real number.

-CONAN O'BRIEN

Late Night with Conan O'Brien February 6, 2006

Property rights

BB&T Corp., a North Carolinabased financial services company with a substantial Washington area presence, said it will not lend money to private real estate development projects that rely on local governments to seize land from reluctant

The bank and legal analysts said they believe BB&T is the first major financial institution to announce such a policy since the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in June that using "eminent domain" powers for privately owned projects did not violate the

"Tyranny is always better organized than freedom."

-CHARLES PEGUY, FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1873-1914)

That's not all: It's got more people working for it, too. And it's better funded. That's where you come in. If you want America to someday live up to its noble libertarian ideals, the

Libertarian Party needs to be able to mount an effective challenge to the political parties that are more interested in pushing us towards tyranny than towards liberty. How can you help? By naming the LP in your will or insurance policy. For a private discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 340-6151. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@LP.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.

Party creation

Eavesdropping

A House Republican whose subcommittee oversees the National SeConstitution.

"Our number one concern is a philosophical and principle-based one," chief credit officer W. Kendall Chalk said in an interview. "We do a large amount of commercial lending. ... There is the potential for abuse of eminent domain."

Spokesmen for several other major banks, including Bank of America Corp. and SunTrust Banks Inc., said they had no plans for similar policies.

"It's tremendous that BB&T is willing to lead the country in saying no to eminent domain abuse," said Dana Berliner, a senior attorney with the Institute for Justice, which represented landowner Susette Kelo in the Supreme Court case. "It's the right thing to do."

—Brooke A. Masters
The Washington Post
January 26, 2006

■ Tax-revenue boom

The nation's strong economic growth is creating a tax-revenue boom for the states. State tax revenues jumped 8.7 percent in 2004 and about 8 percent in 2005. About three-quarters of state governments had tax-revenue growth of 6 percent or more in 2005.

What will the states do with their overflowing coffers? During the revenue boom of the 1990s, states allowed their budgets to bloat as they expanded programs such as Medicaid to unsustainable levels. When the recession hit in 2001 and revenues stagnated, state officials moaned that they were innocent victims of a fiscal crisis. They responded by hiking taxes and clamoring for more aid from Washington.

Only a few years into the current boom, some states are already making the same mistake of overspending. In California, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed a budget increase for fiscal 2007 of 8.4 percent, which follows a 9.7 percent increase in 2006.

Some governors are using current budget surpluses to cut taxes. Unfortunately, most cuts this year are gimmicks — such as rebates and

Online Resources for LP Members

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

Visit: www.LP.org Click on: Organization Click on: State Parties Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: www.LP.org Click on: Organization Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership Visit: www.LP.org Click on: Membership Click on: Renew your membership or subscription narrow credits — rather than reductions to tax rates.

State policymakers seem to have forgotten that the purpose of tax cuts is to promote economic growth, not to buy off special-interest constituencies.

Gov. Jon Huntsman of Utah is an exception: He is calling for a cut to the state's top income-tax rate to "send a signal about our commitment to long-term competitiveness."

In sum, if states continue using today's surpluses to expand budgets they will set themselves up for a

California-style budget crisis when the economy slows.

—CHRIS EDWARDS

National Review Online
February 1, 2006

■ 20% Libertarian

The Gallup Poll's annual survey on government found that 27% of Americans are conservative; 24% are liberal, up sharply because the poll was taken after Katrina, which boosted support for the proposition that "government should do more to solve our country's problems."

Gallup also found — this year as in others — that 20% are neither liberal nor conservative but libertarian, opposing the use of government either to "promote traditional values" or to "do too many things that should be left to individuals and businesses."

Another 20% are "populist" (supporting government action in both areas), with 10% undefined. Libertarian support, spread across demographic groups, is strongest among well-educated voters.

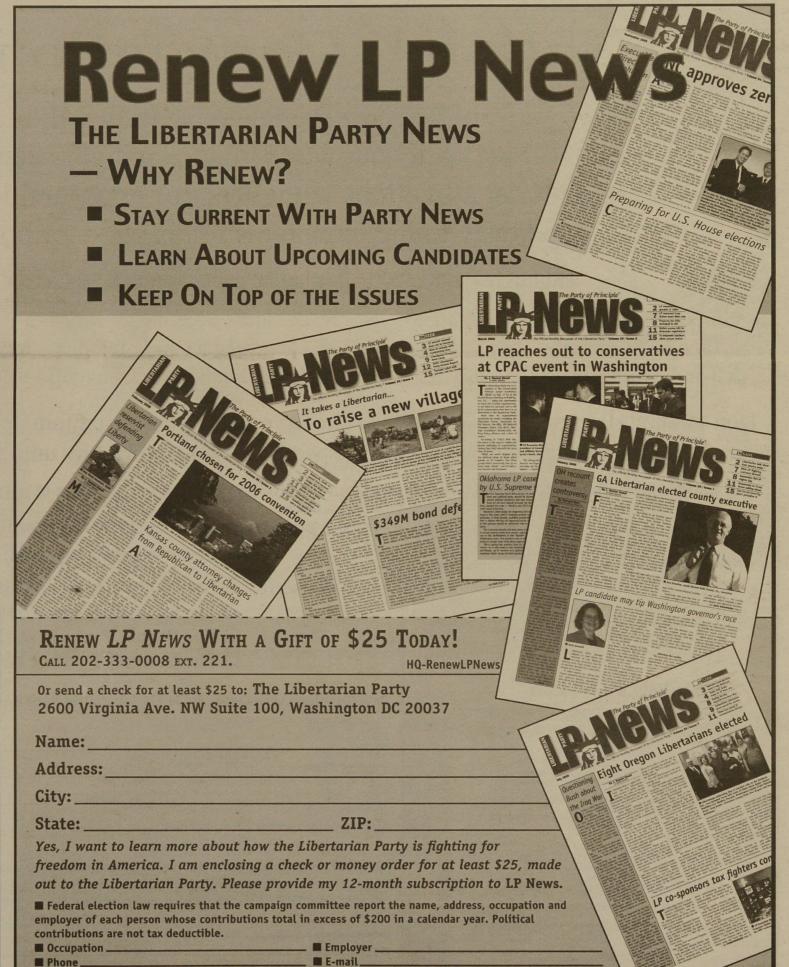
So where are the libertarians in politics and the media?

With big-government conservatives spending money like Imelda Marcos in a shoe store, and big-government liberals supporting the Patriot Act, even pro-government populists are represented in D.C. It's the libertarian voters who are orphans.

It's no secret that libertarian voters make up a chunk of America. But you'd never know it from watching TV — or listening to our elected politicians.

-DAVID BOAZ

The Wall Street Journal
January 31, 2006



Join us in scenic Portland, Oregon, for the

2006

Libertarian Party National Convention!

The two-day, holiday-weekend Convention will be held July 1-2 at the downtown Hilton, near sight-seeing and tourist attractions with plenty of opportunities for a getaway to the mountains or beach — or both!

Highlights of the 2006 Portland Convention will include:

- Opening Reception—June 30
- Pledge Reception—July 1
- ♣ Torch Club Breakfast—July 3
- * Business Meetings—July 1-2
- Chairman's Circle Dinner—July 1
- Libertarian Party Convention Banquet—July 2

Don't delay! Packages are selling fast! Reserve one of these premium delegate packages today and take advantage of the special pricing opportunity until May 1!

For more information or to register immediately, call (800) 682-1776. Visit our Web site at www.lpconvention.org.

⇔ Gold Package — \$359

(Includes access to the Golden VIP Lounge, our opening reception, and our closing banquet, along with two breakfast buffets and working lunches. Gold Package registrants will also receive select seating at our opening and closing receptions.)

♦ Silver Package — \$309

(Includes access to our opening and closing receptions, along with two breakfast buffets.)

* Bronze Package — \$229

(Includes access to our opening reception only, along with two breakfast buffets and two working lunches.)

Marriot

Delegate Package — \$89

(Includes access to the opening reception along with a copy of the delegate voter materials.)

attend the 2006		
Please reserve	my seat!	

I wish to reserve:

The Gold Package at \$359

- ☐ The Silver Package at \$309
- ☐ The Bronze Package at \$229
- ☐ The Delegate Package at \$89

I am enclosing a check, made out to The Libertarian Party, for the appropriate amount.

Name: _____

Address:

City: _____ State: ____ ZIP: ____

Membership Number (if applicable):

Federal election law requires that the campaign committee report the name, address, occupation and employer of each person whose contributions total in excess of \$200 in a

calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible. [HQ—LPNewsConv]

Occupation: Employer: _____

Bush address long on rhetoric, short on real solutions

n Jan. 31, President George W. Bush delivered the traditional State of the Union Address. During his primetime televised speech, Bush portrayed the nation as strong and optimistic.

However, according to a recent Time magazine poll, 63 percent of Americans believe the country is headed in the wrong direction.

Over the past five years, Bush's policies have created an overextended military, a ballooning federal budget deficit, soaring healthcare costs, record-high gasoline prices, expansion of governmental power into citizens' private lives and unbridled corruption.

His speech was littered with generalities and half-hearted initiatives that fall far short of solving the nation's problems.

He made an attempt at reining in rising healthcare costs with a proposal to expand health savings accounts — but he continually fails to address the more serious problem of spiraling costs for Medicare and Medicaid. Rather, he has heightened the problem by expanding the Medicare prescription drug plan.

The Libertarian Party proposes a massive deregulation of the healthcare industry - removing the bar-

Libertarian named to audit committee

ark B. San Souci, a Libertarian in Washington state, has been appointed to a twoyear term on the Pierce County Performance Audit Committee.

San Souci fills one of the two at-large positions on the sevenmember committee. He is an active member of the Washington LP, serving as chairman of the Nominating

San Souci is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. He said his experience conducting government performance audits made him realize the importance of audits in reforming government.

"I can see that their role is to provide valuable information and help the elected officials make decisions," he explained.

"Audits can help in the process but not cure all the problems in government. But any cost-effective process that improves the efficiency of government can only be a posi-

The Pierce County Performance Audit Committee decides what should be audited, plans specific audits, acquires audit contractors through a screening process, hears audit reports, and makes recommendations for action to the county council.

Pierce County, which has more than 755,000 residents, is located in the central part of the state, bordering on Puget Sound.

riers to competition, implementing medical malpractice reform and putting healthcare decisions in the hands of consumers.

Bush said America is "addicted to oil" and stated the need to lessen America's dependence on foreign oil. This is an area where the federal government does not need to be involved.

High energy prices are not popular but are necessary. When prices are high, Americans will consume

less and demand will decrease. High drum up support for the War on Terenergy prices make the pursuit of alternative energies more economically feasible.

Bush still has not provided a real plan for bringing troops home from Iraq. Our troops' mission has been completed, and they are bogged down in battling Iraqi insurgents and foreign terrorists. It is time to begin an orderly, gradual withdraw of American troops.

ror, stating the country must never "surrender to evil," and saying the Patriot Act was a crucial tool in capturing terrorists.

The Patriot Act has not been an effective tool. Instead the law has seriously encroached on Americans' civil liberties. Bush tried to defend his creation of a domestic spying program without the use of warrants, yet another example of the The president also attempted to Bush administration increasing its

power over the lives of ordinary Americans.

In short, President Bush's speech, like his past State of the Union speeches, offered little in terms of providing real solutions to America's problems.

The Libertarian Party is the only party that will restore accountability and honesty in government and end the pervasive corruption that has become all too common in Washington, D.C.

Unless the people, through united action, arise and take charge of their government, they will find that their government has taken charge of them. Independence and liberty will be gone, and the general public will find itself in a condition of servitude to an aggregation of organized and selfish ambitions.

-former President Calvin Coolidge, Oct 1932



Seventy-three years later, we discover that Coolidge was right. Independence and liberty ARE gone.

The general public **DOES** find itself in a condition of servitude to an administration of selfish ambitions.

If EVER there was a time to rise up and take charge of your government through united action...

...that time is NOW!

BEFORE it's too late.

Fortunately, a leader has emerged within the Libertarian Party. The Badnarik campaign organized more than a year before the election! The Badnarik campaign is fast approaching the \$100,000 mark!* The Badnarik campaign is determined to change the course of history!

No one you know will work harder to make victory a real possibility. Now is the time to take united action in order to change the system. Please visit our website now and give the largest contribution you can.

DO IT TODAY! **DO IT RIGHT NOW!**

Badnarik for Congress P.O. Box 14443 Austin, Texas 78761

> (800) 807-7552 or (512) 637-6860 www.Badnarik.org



Free bumper stickers available by calling the office.

* Projection based on over \$70,000 in contributions as of mid-December.

This advertisement was paid for by Badnarik for Congress and approved by the candidate. Allen Hacker, Campaign Manager and Treasurer

THE FORUM

Are Libertarians Anarchists? Another side of the debate

In the February 2006 edition of LP News, Dr. Carl S. Milsted Jr. argued that the Libertarian Party should not espouse anarchy.

"Most freedom lovers favor some government, even though that means supporting some taxation and regulation," he said. "For this reason, most freedom lovers reject the Libertarian Party as it currently stands.

"The current LP membership pledge does not allow for limited government. Some initiation of force is required for a government to do its job. Some taxation is necessary. To obey the LP membership pledge requires calling for the effective abolition of government."

In conclusion, he said, "We also need to update the platform to allow for that minimal state that maximizes liberty."

Milsted's column prompted numerous responses, a few of which are printed below.

- LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud

agree with Dr. Carl S. Milsted, Jr. that the LP should not endorse anarchism, but because it would be suicidal for the party, not because anarchy can't work.

The state is simply a way for some people to openly seize the property of other people without fear of retaliation. It is a license to do what is forbidden to the rest of us, and it necessarily creates a two-class system — those who can legally violate natural rights and those who can't.

Of course, when a government collapses, there is chaos, not because anarchy doesn't work but because free-market services to replace the government cannot instantly be created.

The LP can, and should, still endorse reducing government and replacing its functions with free market services.

To see how anarchy might work, read "On the Steppes of Central Asia," which is available free at www.anarchism.net/steppes.htm.

—RICHARD D. FUERLE
Grand Island, New York

am very concerned by some of the article "Are Libertarians Anarchists? It's time to decide," by Dr. Carl S. Milsted.

Although I agree very much with

ABORTION IS UNLIBERTARIAN

See why. Go to: www.L4L.org

Libertarians for Life 13424 Hathaway Dr. Wheaton, MD 20906 (301) 460-4141 dorisgordon@comcast.net him that we cannot just "abolish the government," since "Nature abhors a vacuum," we need to steadily reduce the size of government while keeping some of it as a framework or a place-holder to prevent a vacuum. It is possible to run a limited government without violating any libertarian principles at all.

Also, I hope that the LP does not water down its principles to conform to the 1787 Constitution for the United States of America.

Although holding the U.S. government to the "ad copy" (about the Constitution) of the Federalist Papers is one of our best bets for holding the line against incursions into our liberties by government, the 1787 Constitution is far from being an ideal document. In fact, it seems to have been deliberately weakened in order to give the federal government "wiggle room," thus resulting in the huge federal government that we have today.

The government should get its money from the same place that any organization that wants money gets its funding: from economic activity.

The government should run businesses like anybody else. This would violate no libertarian principles.

Concerns about abuse should be addressed by keeping government limited — after all, the government already hugely distorts the economy via taxation.

The size of government and how it gets its money are equal concerns to all libertarian-minded people. This technique of government funding should be a no-brainer, along with the concept that government can function without violating any libertarian principles.

Government should simply be forbidden from outlawing competition to its businesses.

—James Wiebe Windsor, Ontario, Canada

r. Carl Milsted, Jr. is absolutely correct when he says, "to obey the LP membership pledge requires calling for the effective abolition of government," because "the current LP membership pledge does not allow for limited government."

To oppose "the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals" (LP Pledge) is to oppose the entire concept of "the government" (socialism) and embrace the concept of "anarcho-capitalism."

The LP membership pledge is the single reason why I, as an anarchist, am a Libertarian, rather than a member of the Constitution Party. I have twice been a LP candidate for Congress because I want to reach people with the message that "the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals" is immoral. Always.

But Milsted wants to abandon the pledge! He wants the LP to carry the liberating message that the initition of force is "required." He believes that persuading millions of people to repudiate the initiation of all force will lead "to more tyranny, not liberty."

Huh? How can it be that if everyone repudiates the initiation of force, "someone will try to fill in the power vacuum. Either it will be another government or warlords...?" How does this new government come into existence? Will the one person in a libertarian society who still believes in the initiation of force trick all the libertarians into annointing him king?

Who will wear the uniform of the king and "pillage, loot, and capture slaves" if everyone is a libertarian? Why is it that people who repudiate the initiation of force "become feudal lords," or else suddenly forget the meaning of the Second Amendment and passively approve of such initiation of force? Milsted's scenario defies all logic.

I would rather be an involuntary serf than a voluntary one. And make no mistake: the men who signed the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution would say that America is now a land of serfs.

Keep the pledge.

—KEVIN CRAIG

Powersite, Missouri

r. Milsted argues that without coercive taxation we would be left with anarchy. I agree

that police, courts, and a military are necessary functions of government. However, I don't believe that funding them requires coercive taxation. Here are some alternative ways they could be funded:

■ Solicit contributions: Americans are incredibly generous people. Without voluntary contributions, churches, charitable organizations, and even the LP itself could never exist.

With the economic prosperity and increase in disposable income that would come from the elimination of taxation, the means to make voluntary contributions would be more abundant than ever before.

Wouldn't people make a modest contribution to safeguard freedom?

Fundraising: States already generate significant revenue from lottories

Americans are tremendously patriotic, and it would be reasonable to assume that those of us placing magnetic yellow ribbons on our cars might support earmarking some of the money spent on such wares for soldiers' salaries.

Fundraising could prove a tremendously successful replacement for coercive taxation.

■ Use volunteers: In many places, the patrol functions of police forces are already supplemented by an auxiliary. Some Americans are patrolling the borders to prevent illegal immigration, and they would not at all welcome an invading army.

With a well-armed citizen militia, the need for a paid military is greatly reduced.

■ Make the criminals pay: Many criminal penalties already specify a fine. Isn't it only fair that convicted criminals pay for as much of the cost of bringing them to justice as possible?

While government must be paid for, we need to communicate our plans for doing so by applying our principles, not by abandoning them.

—DAVID WARDEN
Champaign, Illinois

ow is it that someone who thinks that "some initiation of force is required ... and ... some taxation is necessary ... for a government to do its job" (a) becomes a certified member of our party, (b) rises to the level of the Bylaws Committee and (c) is allowed to propagate his philosophical confusion in *LP News*?

In fact, once upon a time the de facto litmus test differentiating a libertarian from a classical liberal was the question of taxation.

If you believed it tantamount to theft you were considered a libertarian. If on the other hand you thought, say, 5 or 10 percent of taxation justifiable, you were an old-fashioned (AKA "classical") liberal.

Real libertarians do not doubt the evil of compulsion, whether they believe that government in some form is good (e.g., Ayn Rand) or bad (e.g., Murray Rothbard).

Milsted would have us believe that only anarchists oppose the initiation of force and, rather than vindicating anarchism, think this insight vitiates it!

—Bruce Earnheart
Dayton, Ohio

n the February 2006 LP News, Carl Milsted offers a false choice between abandoning our advocacy of zero taxes and accepting an "anarchist" label. He does so by making the absurd assumption that to have a government necessarily requires taxation.

He fails to recognize that much of what government properly does could be paid for by user fees, especially innovative fees such as contract insurance. What cannot be funded by user fees could be funded by truly voluntary contributions.

Of course, without coercive taxation there could not be the plethora of government programs, agencies, and foreign adventures that now exist

But isn't that the point?

—HENRY HALLER
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania



Tom Rawles, a city councilman in Mesa, Ariz., makes a point during a panel discussion about eminent domain at the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance conference in Phoenix. The other panel members are, from left: Elected Libertarian David Owens of Pennsylvania, Adrian Moore of the Reason Foundation, and Texas LP Chair Patrick Dixon, who was elected in 2005 to the city council in Lago Vista, Texas. —Photo by LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud

Winning issues: Choosing your battles in the War of Words

or Libertarians to make a difference in the ever so important world of politics, we must

make the most of our efforts. Working smarter works By Bruce better in politics, Cohen just like in business. To that end, we must carefully

choose the topics we lead with.

Not making progress, or worse yet, turning off voters is something we can't afford to do - hence the idea of choosing winning issues. Campaign managers have long known about this and have steered their candidates towards them, and away from losing issues.

What is a winning issue?

Winning issues resonate with voters. They are issues a party or a candidate can use to "get ahead" of their opponents.

Winning issues also must reflect your true position. You must be true to yourself. For the same reason, it's not good to get caught on both sides of an issue. Winning issues highlight the differences between our opposition and us. Finally, they must be issues where the voters prefer our solution.

What is not a winning issue?

For a political party, any issue that divides its members is not a winning issue. Any issue that divides a candidate's potential constituency is not a winning issue.

We must choose issues we can win hearts, minds and votes with. When we run on winning issues, we're not ignoring what's important. Instead, we're focusing on winning. As we convert and recruit voters and members to join, we'll have plenty of time to share our viewpoints with them later.

You can be right 100 percent of the time and still not grow the party. That's why choosing the correct set of issues is so important.

When we find common ground with our constituency, we can build the freedom movement. And, as this new blood adds energy to our effort, they will learn about the other solutions Libertarians have to offer.

Libertarians have long known that the issue of abortion is not a winning issue for them. America is divided on the issue, and there are clear positions by both our major competitors. There is only a little division within the party, but in this case, we can't win new voters to our side on this issue.

The death penalty is another losing issue. By choosing sides on this issue, we stand to gain nothing politically.

Certainly it's fine to have an opinion on these things. But to lead with them — or to focus a campaign on them — is counter-productive.

Likewise, the current controversy regarding the war in Iraq: It's simply not something we can recruit voters with. The other major parties have all the ground covered here. Don't waste your time and effort on losing issues.

Fortunately for Libertarians, there are many winning issues we can use! On many public policy matters, neither the Republicans or the Democrats offer good solutions. There are Libertarian solutions Americans instinctively like and understand when the solutions are framed properly.

Libertarians can get ahead of their opponents on the Social Security issue. We have the only workable solution to the problem — and our solution has widespread support in the intellectual community and America.

We have the only good solution for education. John Q. Voter loves it when we suggest ending government monopolies in education, as well as dramatically cutting costs and improving the product.

With a good explanation, you can have your audience, if not outright agreeing with you, at least considering the Libertarian solution as a

viable one worth discussing.

Trying to cover too much ground is also a losing tactic. Focus on a few things you know your audience will be able to grasp, and cares about. This way you can spend the time to persuade and convince, while sounding reasonable and articulate.

Libertarians have made a big difference in American politics, but we have a long, long way to go. By learning best methods and approaches we can refine our tactics

to give us better long-term results. Now, let's go give the Republicans and Democrats a run for their

■ About the author: Bruce Cohen of Orange County, Calif., is communications chair for the California LP, serves on the state executive committee, and is on the national LP finance committee. He is currently running for Congress in the 48th District. See www.GetBruce.com.

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Classes will begin in mid-March. The LLS is open to all members of the Libertarian Party. Courses will last a minimum of six weeks and require a significant time commitment from students. To enroll in the LLS or for more information, e-mail lls@lp.org.

Don't delay! Space is limited and classes are filling quickly!

THE EDITOR

Shop where you like

was recently drawn into a discussion with a few other men who were talking about hating Walmart and other large corporations. Many of the themes voiced were similar to those that have been brought forth in LP News in recent months — that Walmart and other major corporations drive smaller businesses out of the market, that



Cloud LP NEWS EDITOR

they don't pay their employees a "living wage," and that it's not fair for the Walton family to get tremendously wealthy by ruining small towns through a process of homog-

I don't intend to recount the entire discussion, or to delve back into the running commentary we've had in this newspaper over recent months.

However, I do want all anti-Walmartians to consider one point: Have you purchased anything online recently? Have you driven outside of your own town to purchase any-By J. Daniel outside of your own town to purchase anything simply because you couldn't find what you wanted near your home? Have you bought anything used, whether from an individual or from a pawn shop or other store? Have you bartered — trading goods or services for another's goods or services?

If you've done any of these things, you're guilty of "Walmarting," just as much as if you had purchased stock in the corporation.

And that's what I told the group of guys to whom I referred earlier. "How do you figure?" they asked.

None of them wanted to admit to or even consider such a thing: All were bound and determined to never again shop at Walmart or other such stores, as a show of solidarity against the corporation.

It boils down to this: The primary complaint against Walmart and other large strings of stores is that they take business from the smaller stores, and the process eventually drives the smaller stores out of business. Walmart and other stores of its ilk don't pay "high enough" wages or contribute hefty-enough sums to health insurance to satisfy some people, so many people believe the corporation is unfairly preying on the smaller retailers. But take it one step farther.

I recently have been purchasing clothing, books and other items online, usually through eBay. By doing so, I have bypassed the stores that sell books and clothing near my current home in South Carolina, and thus have "robbed" those stores of my business.

Why do I buy so much stuff online? Because I can do the majority of my shopping in one place (namely, my home), because I frequently find better prices than I do at local stores, and because I can usually find a greater variety of goods at reasonable prices than at any store in town - up to and including Walmart.

I presented my fellow conversants with this information, and they admitted that they, too, purchase a good many items online, usually through eBay but sometimes through online retailers who also have real-world shops somewhere in the world.

Millions of Americans (and for that matter, many more around the world) do some shopping online. With an online presence, a small mom-and-pop store in that part of the country I call "Out Where the Cows Are," can sell products anywhere in the world. They don't have to rely on the local market to stay afloat.

And what about used goods? By purchasing "previously owned" merchandise — whether it's something as small as a book or as large as a car — the shopper is taking business away from somebody.

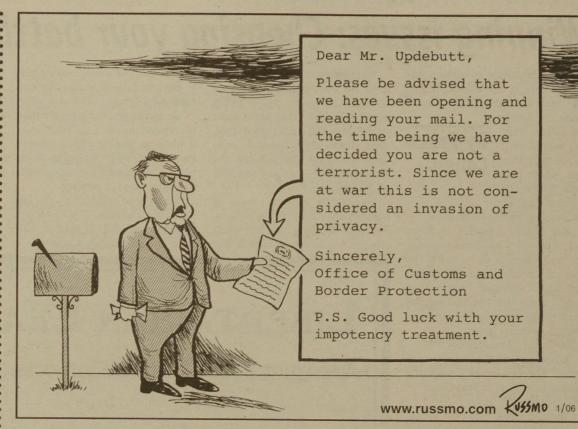
Anyone who purchases a used car is not buying a new car, and thus by definition is hurting the automotive manufacturing trade.

If you buy a used book, you're not supporting the publishing trade, the printers or the author. They collected their portion of the proceeds when the book was first sold, so you're not contributing anything further to their coffers.

You're stealing business from them by buying a used book.

Is this beside the point? Perhaps. Is it an unreasonable statement? Definitely. No author or seamstress or machinist has a "right" to your business, to your patronage. But this is no more unreasonable than assuming that any small business in any town in America has a right to my patronage any more than Walmart or K-Mart or other corporateowned stores do.

Why do I purchase goods online, or search the want ads of the local paper for used stuff? Because I can buy what I want, at the price I like. I get the selection I demand and the service I pay for — as long as I recognize that I'm often paying less for a promise of less service. Those are the same reasons many people go to corporate-owned retail stores like Walmart. It's my money and I'll spend it where I like — and you're welcome to do the same with your money.



THEMAILBOX



■ Jury nullification

I used to be strongly in favor of jury nullification, and I still believe that it would serve a useful purpose in helping those accused of victimless crimes. Excluding potential jurors who have beliefs about certain laws can lead to abuse of the jury selection process.

However, I have always felt that jury nullification can be a twoedged sword.

For example, there is a slight chance that a thief could go free if a person gets on the jury who believes that it's OK for a poor person to steal from a rich person, or a murderer could get a hung jury if one juror thinks that murder is OK.

Of course, there aren't many people who think these things, but you never know! Things can work both ways.

-DAVID MORRIS

Lexington, South Carolina

Social (in)Security

(RE: "End the mail monopoly," Libertarian Solution, January 2006 LP News)

Please follow-up with a piece showing the benefits of ending the Socialist Insecurity monopoly. While mail service is mentioned in the Constitution as a function of the central government; Socialist Insecurity is not. While using the USPS is voluntary, for millions of working Americans, Socialist Insecurity is mandatory.

Socialist Insecurity is the largest unconstitutional item in the federal budget.

When a senior loses a dollar in a private-sector Ponzi scheme, AARP and other special-interest groups go ballistic and demand the scheme be shut down — yet the same slugs praise and glorify the governmentrun Ponzi scheme, Socialist Insecu-

Like the USPS, it should be deregulated, permitting voluntary participation.

Mr. Ponzi ... would be proud that his namesake scheme is alive and well. The only difference, his scheme was strictly voluntary, which is how Socialist Insecurity should be structured. FICA payers deserve restoration of their 10th Amendment rights.

-HARRY THOMPSON

Tucson, Arizona

Tracking animals

(RE: "Turtle leads to jail time for pet store owner," January 2006 LP

Tracking animals electronically is a nationwide threat to liberty, not just in Ohio. Proposed federal regulations would require farmers to electro-track all their animals.

There's an email list opposed this: Americans Against NAIS@yahoogroups.com. ("NAIS" is an acronym for the proposed regulations.)

Libertarians and the LP should oppose these proposed regulations, of course. It's an opportunity to enlist the support of small farmers, especially the more independentminded ones, against megafarms running the bureaucracies, and even of pet owners.

-ANDREW LOHR

Chattanooga, Tennessee

Our signature issue Kudos to Mark Nelson for his

Forum article "Get back to our signature issue: Ending the War on Drugs." I hope his words will be heeded by everyone in the LP.

As an ardent Marijuana Policy Project supporter, I was dismayed to read that some LNC members and state party officials oppose our collaborating with MPP.

Those in the party leadership who do not want to be identified with marijuana reform need to find another party.

If their viewpoint prevails, I might seriously consider switching allegiance to another party - and I've supported the LP since the Mac-Bride for President campaign.

-PETER B. HULL Pocatello, Idaho

USPS

I enjoyed your recent article about ending the mail monopoly, which appeared in the January LP

As a Libertarian, I agree with most of what 'you advocate, but I wish to point out that the USPS is not a complete dud:

1. Amazon.com & netflix.com use the USPS exclusively (I believe) and both are thriving, so it must be that the USPS is doing a good (cost effective) job for both. I've had consistently good experiences with both.

2. Some employees at the University of Hawaii at Manoa (state university with about 23,000 students) are so fed up with the slowness and high error rate of intra-campus mail that they use the USPS instead.

3. I was the Controller for a company in Honolulu that teetered on bankruptcy. Cash flow was critical for our survival. Deciding which vendors to pay promptly and which to delay paying was my primary job responsibility.

I chose to pay vendors on the

THEMAILBOX

east coast (of the U.S. mainland) promptly, figuring that would give me a few days vs. west coast vendors.

But I was wrong. My checks to one important vendor in Atlanta, Georgia, consistently cleared the vendor's bank in just 3 days!

Maybe the solution lies not so much in "abolishing" the USPS but in making some really big changes. I think the mixture of monopoly and union shop (the USPS and public school systems are examples) is pretty near lethal for any enterprise.

Sounding like a liberal, maybe there ought to be a law (uh oh!) that monopolies can't have a unionized workforce.

This would really make big waves, and the net result would be very positive for society. We already have a precedent — policemen can't go on strike.

Union membership in the private sector is waning, but what's truly fearsome is the big growth in public sector unions.

—ALAN MATSUDA
Honolulu, Hawaii

■ Christian Exodus

I'm not sure why you chose to print the letter by Richard Dubay of Connecticut in January's edition of *LP News* ... lack of incoming mail, perhaps.

What we have here is not a Libertarian. What we have here is a liberal, in the most contemporary hypocritical sense of the word.

First, we present conjecture based on personal bias: "Christian Exodus won't interpret the Constitution strictly because they would have a problem with the First Amendment."

This is followed by melodramatic editorial posturing, showing the writer's lack of understanding and personal prejudice: "Christians are often staunchly opposed to free speech, trying to censor pornography, profanity, and other religions."

This statement shows the writer's inability to discern the difference between "garbage for profit" and "free speech."

Then the author goes into a boring liberal process of presenting a hypothesis, and then pontificating on the dire results of the worst case scenario a paranoid mind can imagine, based on that hypothesis: "If Christian Exodus succeeds, South Carolina could become an oppressive theocracy." As if the status quo of an oppressive secular socio-democracy is superior?

The key concepts of Christianity are free choice and personal restraint, combined with the emphasis that every action has its consequence.

Perhaps an underlying paranoia belies fear that the South Carolina project could take over the United States, and perhaps the world.

All I know is that this country

was founded on Christian principles — and that until some idiots in the court system and the legislature ran rampant with social engineering and a nanny mentality, freedom was the key word, not oppression.

Libertarianism means live and let live.

Even if the Christian Exodus movement should sweep the other states (which it won't because people are too self-absorbed), it's very difficult to see harm to society resulting from less violence and sex on broadcast TV, fewer swear words propagated, and an emphasis on the religion which founded this country and made it great.

-Kurt Snyder
Warren, Michigan

[Editor's note: Christians and other deists may have assisted in the founding of this country, but the religion did not — nor did any religion make America great. The United States is a great nation because of Americans.]

■ Telephone tax

The July 2005 issue of *LP News* included a story titled "Your contribution to the Spanish-American War," describing the 3 percent excise tax on telephone service that We the People have been paying since 1898. You may have overlooked the "C" word in the article's title, but I have not.

Most of us no doubt define a contribution as something of value given voluntarily to someone else, and this "tax" is no exception.

In 2001, I started researching the law behind this tax, and uncovered some startling evidence — simply

put, we are not required to pay it. I looked at the law, I contacted the phone company, I went through a lawsuit against Verizon, and buried myself in the statutes that originated the tax.

I believe I have researched the issue enough to provide proof positive that the tax — then one cent per call costing fifteen cents or more — was imposed on the telephone companies, not the customers.

I am now using a form, provided by the phone company, to obtain a full refund of this "tax" amount each month. I did the same with AT&T before canceling service some time ago.

The four reasons we are not required to pay it are placed on the Verizon form, and are as follows:

- 1. The phone company has no directive from the IRS to collect Communications Excise Tax.
- 2. Statutes implementing Communications Excise Tax were repealed in 1982.
- 3. Regulation 26 C.F.R. 49.4251 ended the Communications Excise Tax in 1965.
- 4. The phone company has no form provided by law to report collection of this "tax."

The complete results of my research and the procedure for safely and lawfully obtaining a refund of amounts charged to your telephone bill may be found on my Web site, www.ArtFarnsworth.org/phonetax.htm

—ARTHUR L. FARNSWORTH
West Rockhill Township, Penn.

■ Gun confiscation

With the exception of J. Daniel Cloud's article on disarming the in-

nocent via gun confiscation in New Orleans, which appeared in the *LP News*, and an "Outrage of the Week" on <u>LP.org</u>, in the months following Hurricane Katrina, we have seen little action on the part of the national LP in regards to the gun confiscation that took place there.

Realizing that the national LP is a political party and has limited resources, we encourage you to do what you can by calling on the Justice Department to aggressively pursue and prosecute all those involved (and do so with the same zeal that the Drug War is waged), to issue press releases calling attention to this injustice and progress in rectifying it and publicly acknowledge the NRA and NRA-ILA's work on this issue (which would help build relations with this important group of citizens).

Also, develop and disseminate strategic points to LP candidates to highlight this issue in a way that attracts support to our cause.

It is not our intent to come across as socialist types asking the national organization to do all the work. As members we want to see this issue given the attention it is due at the national level.

- -James Constantino, County Chair
- WILLIAM F. WOLPER, VICE CHAIR
- Robert Dome, Treasurer

Grays Harbor LP, Washington

Fair Tax support

In keeping with *LP News* Editor Daniel Cloud's admonition to be more politically active, the Libertarian Party of Uintah County, Utah, has endorsed and is actively supporting HR 25/S 25, the Fair Tax proposal. As Cloud suggests, it is time for the party to do things that may not be perfectly true to our principles, but heading in the right direction.

Such is the case with the Fair Tax

proposal. Is it perfect? Absolutely not! Will it reduce the size of government? Not at all! So why should Libertarians support it? Because it will get rid of the 16th Amendment and the IRS, that's why. Also, it will abolish 60,044 pages of tax code written by an unelected government agency — the IRS.

Our vigorous support of the proposal is worth it just for that.

The proposal is a consumption tax that people can get a handle on to bring pressure on the local congressman, something virtually impossible to do with the thousands of pages of our current tax code.

Since the Uintah County LP started this project last October, our Chairman, Lee Fugal, has been on local TV — a 15-minute spot aired three times a day for two weeks. Appointments have been made for him to be interviewed on local radio. Hundreds of flyers have been distributed.

Also, 100 packets of information containing a Fair Tax brochure we have made as well as a pre-stamped postcard message to our congressman, and a New Vision for Americas LP brochure, has been distributed to small business owners in Vernal, Utah. Many have said, "Its about time somebody is doing something like this!"

It is our objective to activate small business owners throughout the Second Congressional District.

—Bruce A. Daniel Vernal, Utah

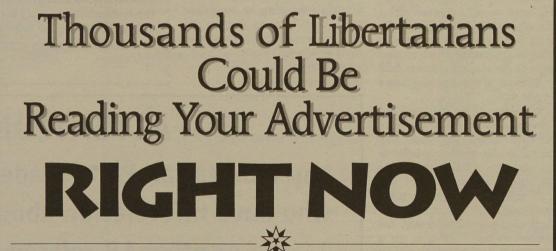
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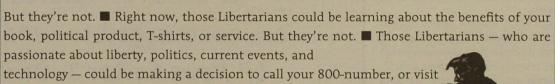
■ Cyber Capitol

[RE: Downsizing DC]

I've had some further thoughts on this issue. Why should our nation's capitol be on the Atlantic seaboard? That makes it all too vulnerable to a sneak attack. We need to find a better place, somewhere else, out of reach. And if we're going to move it, we also should make sure we pick someplace safe from future

That sounds like a tall order, modern weapons being what they are. Let's face it: there really isn't anyplace on this earth that's completely safe any more. 9/11 should have taught us that. What we need





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THEMAILBOX

Continued from Page 1

is a virtual capitol, out in cyberspace.

I'm serious. In all the hustle and bustle of making money on the Internet, it's easy to forget that its original purpose was to provide a bomb-proof medium of communication — a network that could still function even after an atomic attack. It's become much more than that, but it still has that capability.

I can think of all kinds of advantages to such an arrangement. In the first place, making all our representatives telecommute from their home states would make them much more accessible to their constituents and remove them from the corrupting influence of the Beltway social scene.

Secondly, it would save a great deal of money. Emails and even conference calls cost a lot less than transporting people from coast to coast, not to mention the wear and tear (and hazards) of physical travel. No one would need to keep a second home a continent away.

There really isn't any reason for putting all our governmental eggs in one basket, particularly since that "basket" was designed for the horse-and-buggy era. A lot of things have changed in the past 200 years, and it behooves us to take that into account in our planning. Cities may have become obsolete, and Washington D.C. is a prime example.

—RICHARD B. CRAWFORD Roy, Washington

■ U.S. Constitution

[RE: "The U.S. Constitution vs. the Libertarian Party Platform," February 2006 LP News.

As the lack of adherence to the provisions of the U. S. Constitution is a favorite rhetorical stick that I and many other Libertarians swing at the members of the two bigger parties, I am glad to see that members of our platform committee are looking at how we in the Libertarian Party are using the Constitution only when it supports our ideologies.

If we are going to use the U. S. Constitution to support the correctness of our views, then our views must adhere to the Constitution. The article "The U.S. Constitution vs. the Libertarian Party Platform" is right on the mark.

It is true that there are a few less than perfectly libertarian provisions in the Constitution, but our platform must conform to it as anybody we may eventually get elected to federal office must swear to uphold and defend that document. Notwithstanding the fact that the current political leaders do not do so, if we are to be the party of principles we must.

While it is perfectly legitimate to point out any unlibertarian provisions of the Constitution, the constitutional provisions for amendment require us to first obtain enough seats in three-fourths of the

state legislatures to get an amendment through.

Until such a time, adherence to the rule of law and strict originalist interpretation of the Constitution are paramount to the Libertarian Party's credibility in denouncing the antics of the Republicans and Democrats. Furthermore, it is this very issue that is causing some in those parties to question their support for their leadership and elected office holders.

I wholeheartedly support having our party's platform be consistent with the powers currently authorized by the Constitution.

—Dan Beatty
Centerville, Pennsylvania

■ Hemingway

Mr. Cloud: Very nice column about Hemingway's quote in the February 2006 *LP News* [From the Editor].

I just want to plug my favorite saying: "That Government that governs least governs best." — Thomas Jefferson.

—VINCENT FLAHERTY
Pembroke, Massachusetts

■ Religious beliefs

At the risk of seeming thinskinned, a state to which I can hardly lay legitimate claim, I must take exception to your remarks in the February LP News MailBox.

You said, "For what it's worth, those who deny the existence of God [atheists] are also making their religious beliefs known."

While it may not be intrinsically impossible, in all my decades as an atheist, I have yet to encounter an atheist whose beliefs are religious.

Granted, it is possible to base any belief on faith. However, atheists will generally advise you (apparently, you haven't encountered very many of us) that our beliefs with regards to the matters religions tend to focus on are speculations based on reason.

Consequently, we will tend not to be emotionally attached to these particular beliefs any more, say, than I am attached to my belief in the existence of this keyboard. We are atheists due to the fact that that is what we happen to judge to be consistent with our observations of the objective reality, not because we care whether or not a god or gods, or a supernatural realm exists.

It's just another aspect of reality as it appears to us. I hope you can now see that suggesting that we atheists have "religious beliefs" comes across as an amusing little unintended insult from someone who just doesn't fully grasp the nature of our perspective.

-ROBERT NOVAL
Miami, Florida

[Editor's note: No insult was intended. I have had this discussion with atheists before, without causing

offense, and I apologize for an apparent insult.

Like yours, my beliefs are based primarily on reason, not emotion. However, I don't think further explanation would serve much purpose in this newspaper. We'll just have to respectfully disagree on this issue.]

■ Hispanic vote

Back in the late 70's when I was attending college in South Texas, I took a history course that emphasized immigration patterns and their effect on the United States.

I did a paper then on "The Browning of America," and predicted that by the year 2000 Hispanics would be the largest minority. Lo and behold, the 2000 census showed that my prediction had come to pass!

These Hispanics are being courted by both of the major parties. The Democrats have taken the Latino vote for granted, but exit polls in the last couple elections have shown Hispanic support very "soft" indeed when it comes to supporting the Democrats.

Neither major party has really embraced these people. The Libertarian Party should do everything possible to court the Hispanic vote.

We should be publishing Spanish editions of everything possible. We should let them know that there is an alternative to the Democrats and Republicans.

We need to get people involved immediately on this. Why? Because I had another prediction way back when, and that is this: Unless the current trends change, the Hispanic population will be approaching majority status in many areas by 2050.

The time is ripe; we have a chance to rise to major party status by garnering a good percentage of this vote! If we go bilingual, we can get the word out to a group who could well be our future.

—CHRIS VAUGHAN
Indianapolis, Indiana

UPCOMING

■ April 28-30, 2006

South Carolina LP Convention, to be held at the Avista Resort in North Myrtle Beach. Convention on Saturday, April 29, followed by South Carolina's State Leadership Conference on Sunday, April 30. For details, call (843) 267-0045, e-mail chairman@sclibertarians.org, or visit www.sclibertarians.org.

■ April 29, 2006

Kansas LP Convention, to be held in Topeka. Location details and other information is not currently available. For updates, go to www.lpks.org.

■ April 29, 2006

Vermont LP Convention, to be held at the Capitol Plaza Hotel and Conference Center in Montpelier, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, go to www.vtlp.org or call 802-372-9512.

■ April 29, 2006

New York LP Convention, to be held at the Best Western in Albany, not far from the airport on Wolf Road. There will likely be an event on Friday night before the convention. Other details to be announced. For information, go to http://ny.lp.org/official/convention.

■ May 5-7, 2006

North Carolina LP Convention, to be held at the Best Western Hotel in Burlington. The convention theme is "Independence Day: Every Day," emphasizing the actions people can take both in the LP and in their daily lives to expand individual liberties. For details, call Susan Hogarth at (919) 906-2106, e-mail convention@lpnc.org, or visit www.lpnc.org.

■ June 10, 2006

Texas LP Convention, location and specific schedule not yet determined. For more information when it becomes available, visit www.tx.lp.org.

■ June 30-July 3, 2006

2006 National Libertarian Party Convention, to be held at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower in Portland, Ore. For additional details, see the story on Page 1 of this issue of *LP News*. Visit www.LP.org often to keep up with plans for the 2006 convention.

- ATTENTION -

Any Libertarian Party leaders or members who have information about conventions or other LP-related events are encouraged to send details to LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud at Daniel.Cloud@LP.org

Remember: I need your assistance.

Business

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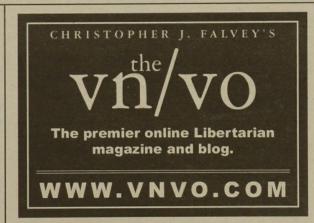
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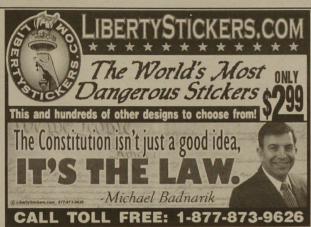
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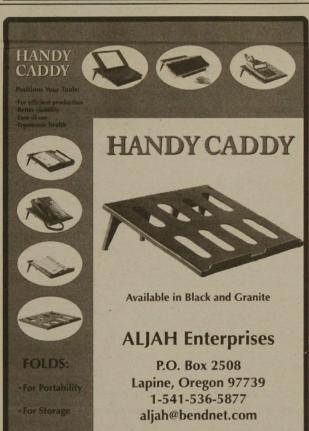
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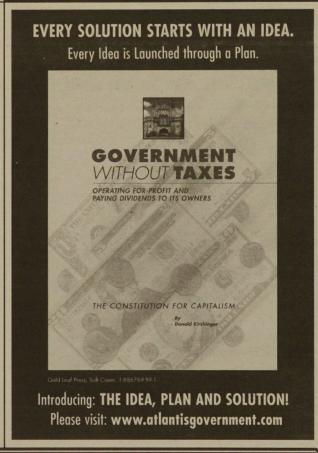
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CONTACT LP NEWS

Libertarian Party / Attn: LP News 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Ste 100 Washington, DC 20037 E-mail: Editor@LP.org

UP COMING

March 3-5, 2006

Missouri LP Convention, to be held at the Lamplighter Inn Convention Center, in Springfield. The event will feature a "Liberty Film Festival." Speakers to include Joyce Riley and Dave vonKleist from "The Power Hour," Heather Talley of Bureaucrash, and Debbie Hopper of Mothers Against the Draft. For details, go to www.lpmo. org/events/convention/

March 3-5, 2006

Pennsylvania LP Convention, to be held at the Atherton Hotel in State College, Pennsylvania. For more information, go to www. lppa.org.



Vandersloot

March 10-12, 2006 New Mexico LP Convention, to be held at the Best Western in Rio Rancho. Speakers to include Chuck McLaughlin, Bill Koehler, author Victor Milan, LNC member George Squyres, and Darcy Glenn. For more details, go to www. lpnm.org, or call state chair Jay Vandersloot at (505) 362-1733.

March 24-26, 2006

Florida LP Convention, at the Boca Raton Embassy Suites Hotel. Speakers to include Jim Babka of DownsizeDC; Philip Blumel, elected Libertarian and Florida LP activist; author Bob Burg; and David Wood, president of the Second Amendment Coalition of Florida. For more details, call (800) 478-0555, or go to http:// lpf2006.org.

■ April 8-9, 2006

Washington LP Convention, "Building Tomorrow Together," at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. Presentations focusing on five subjects: education, the environment, healthcare, property rights and transportation. Speakers to be announced. For details when available, call (425) 641-8247, e-mail officemanager@lpwa. org, or visit www.lpwa.org.

April 22, 2006

Georgia LP Convention, to be held at the Howell's Mill Holiday Inn in Atlanta, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., with banquet to follow. Speakers to be announced. For more information when available, go to www.LPGeorgia.com.

April 22, 2006

Virginia LP Convention, to be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Charlottesville. Speakers to include John Berthoud of the National Taxpayers Union and Steve Anderson of the Institute for Justice. For details, call Jim Lark at (434) 973-5958 or e-mail jwlark@dellmail.com.



Berthoud

April 28-30, 2006

Indiana LP Convention, to be held at the Clarion Waterfront Resort in Indianapolis. Convention on Saturday will include workshops on proper land use, opposing eminent domain, and Indiana's Small Business Initiative. For details, call (317) 920-1994, e-mail lpinhq@lpin.org, or visit www.lpin.org. [For more Upcoming Events, see page 18]

Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Watergate Office Building 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100 Washington DC 20037

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FIRST WORD

"The 'Net gravely damaged the credibility of the Democratic Party during the Clinton years by spotlighting its tremendous corruption, cronyism and hypocrisy — and 'Net blogs and commentators have done the same thing to the Republicans during the Bush

"This is not good for either major party since, for the first time in generations, a fairly well informed electorate is disgusted with the available political choices and searching for an alternative. That alternative

> is probably along the lines of classical liberalism, the idea that less government is preferable to

"Ironically, the only party currently representing that point of view with any potential to join the mainstream is the Libertarian Party. Thus, no doubt, the reason new, anti-third party legislation is being rushed along."

-FreeMarketNews.com, February 13, 2006