

- 2** Congress raises cap on national debt
- 3** Georgia Libertarian cuts city budget 5%
- 3** NM county official switches to LP
- 4** Olivier to oppose Gov. Schwarzenegger
- 8** Movie review: "V for Vendetta"

## LNC discusses affiliate services agreement

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**M**embers of the Libertarian National Committee met in Charlotte, N.C., on March 11-12 for their quarterly session. Among the topics of discussion was the long-sought-after agreement between the national LP and the various state LP affiliates.

Representatives of the Libertarian State Leadership Alliance (LSLA) worked on the agreement when they met in January, selecting two committees to come up with a draft agreement to present to the LNC. However, the draft was not prepared before the LNC's recent meeting.

"With the ending of the Unified Membership Plan and the beginning of a more arms-length relationship with the states, the state affiliates are now more interested in the agreement than they were before," said LNC Chair Michael Dixon.

"We need to formulate something we can enter into, not unilaterally, but as an agreement that would codify the relationship between the states and the national organization."

R. Lee Wrights, vice chair of the LNC, agreed, saying, "We need to make sure this is structured as an agreement — not as a dictate to the states. We have to make sure it's friendly."

Issues attendees at the LSLA conference in Phoenix said they would like assistance with — or that they want clarified in the agreement — include the questions of whether states are going to be expected to comply with FEC requirements, whether Web connectivity will be supplied by the national LP, and whether the national LP and the state affiliates will freely exchange membership and inquiry data lists.

They also asked for clarification on the issue of whether state parties will be forced to recognize the national LP's presidential nominee, and they want a regular reporting of "core and critical activities, from a best-See **WORKING** Page 4

# Two-time LP presidential candidate Harry Browne dies

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

**B**estselling author Harry Browne, the Libertarian Party's candidate for president in 1996 and 2000, died March 1 at his home in Franklin, Tenn. He was 72.

Browne had endured a long struggle with Lou Gehrig's disease, which had confined him to a wheelchair for about a year. He is survived by his wife, Pamela, and one daughter, Autumn.

When he ran for president in 1996, Browne earned the second-highest vote total the Libertarian Party has ever received for a presidential candidate: 485,134 votes. He campaigned throughout the country, appearing on more than 1,000 radio and television programs.

In his second campaign, he earned 384,431 votes.

Browne wrote a dozen books which, combined, have sold more than two million copies, including several bestsellers. His most popular investment book was 1974's *You Can Profit from a Monetary Crisis*, which quickly reached #1 on the *New York Times* bestseller list and remained on that list for 39 weeks.

But perhaps his best-known book, especially in libertarian circles, is *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*, which has been hailed as a modern libertarian classic.

He also wrote a book in conjunc-

tion with each of his presidential campaigns: *Why Government Doesn't Work* (1995) and *The Great Libertarian Offer* (2000).

In addition to his books, Browne also wrote columns for a number of publications, most of them online, and took part in a number of other activities and organizations that focused both on investing and libertarianism.

He was a co-founder and director of public policy for the Downsize DC Foundation (started in 2001 with Jim Babka and Perry Willis as the American Liberty Foundation).

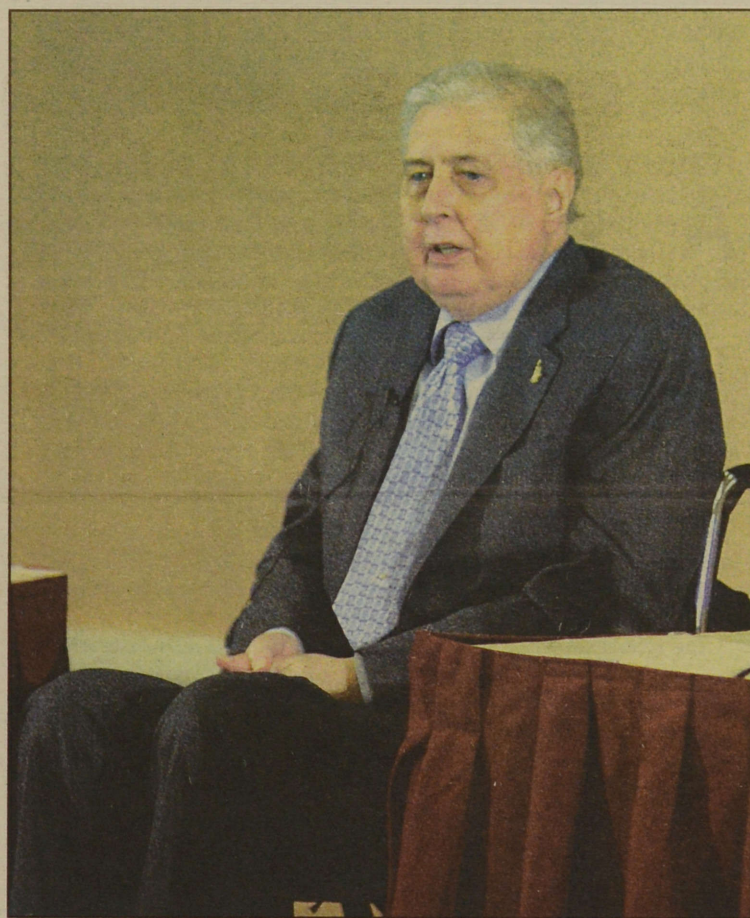
He regularly wrote for [WorldNetDaily.com](http://WorldNetDaily.com), [AntiWar.com](http://AntiWar.com), [LewRockwell.com](http://LewRockwell.com), and for the Free Market News Network, as well as for his own Web site, [www.HarryBrowne.org](http://www.HarryBrowne.org).

And in his "free time," he continued to do some private investment consulting.

Bill Winter, who worked for the national Libertarian Party from 1993-2003, was communications director for the party during both of Browne's campaigns for president. He is currently director of communications for the Advocates for Self-Government.

"Like most people, I admired Harry as a gentleman and as an extremely effective political candidate," Winter says in his eulogy for Browne on the Advocates' Web site, [www.theadvocates.org](http://www.theadvocates.org).

"But most of all I admired him  
See **HARRY BROWNE** Page 2



■ Harry Browne ran for president twice on the Libertarian Party ticket — in 1996 earning more than 485,000 votes, the second-highest vote total ever for an LP candidate. He is shown here in his last public appearance, in October 2005, when he gave two speeches at the Advocates for Self-Government's 20th Anniversary Celebration, although confined to a wheelchair by Lou Gehrig's disease. —Photo by LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud

## Speakers added to 2006 LP Convention roster

**P**lanning for the 2006 national LP convention continues, with two speakers recently confirmed for the event to be held July 1-2 in Portland, Ore.

Former Congressman Bob Barr will be speaking Saturday morning. Barr represented the 7th District of Georgia from 1995 to 2003. He currently is chairman of the Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances, a group that has been a vocal opponent of the USA PATRIOT Act.

"Andrew Neil will also be joining us throughout the weekend for several events," said LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory. "Neil is the founding chairman of Sky TV and a current BBC correspondent."

In addition, Neil has served as publisher of *The Scotsman*, editor of *The Economist* and editor-in-chief of the *Sunday Times*.

"We are thrilled that these gentlemen will be speakers at our national convention and I greatly appreciate their participation," Cory said.

Registration for the convention is "lagging behind" where it usually is this close to the convention, LNC Chair Michael Dixon told other members of the LNC at their March 11-12 meeting in Charlotte, N.C.

"It's important that delegates and others who plan to attend register early for the convention," Cory said. "Not only do early registrants benefit from early bird pricing (until

May 1), early registration helps us pay for and budget our expenses for this very big event.

"So if you want to take part in the election of LNC members and other convention business, or if you just want to see how a true political party works, take the time to register today."

The convention budget calls for selling 500 tickets — about the same as for the Indianapolis convention in 2002. More than 1,000 people attended the 2004 convention in Atlanta, but attendance for non-presidential-election year conventions is historically lower than when delegates select a presidential candidate.

In addition to the events that are being planned for the convention, Dixon stressed that people who plan to show up for the convention on Friday, June 30, are welcome to organize "constituency meetings" before the opening reception.

Some such events are already planned — including one for college Libertarians and one for Libertarian women — but there is ample room for more meetings, he said.

Anyone interested in organizing such an event should e-mail convention planner Terry Quick at [terryq@entco.com](mailto:terryq@entco.com), Dixon said.

For more information about the convention, go to [www.LPConvention.org](http://www.LPConvention.org) or see the ad on page 10.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Congress raises the cap on U.S. national debt

The Senate voted in mid-March to raise the ceiling on U.S. borrowing authority to \$8.965 trillion, an increase of \$781 billion from the previous level. The legislation, which narrowly passed with a 58-42 vote largely along party lines, was hyped by supporters as a necessary measure to avoid a possible government default on debt this month.

This step, which represents the fourth debt cap raise since 2002, then went to President George W. Bush for his signature.

The debt cap increase passed the Senate less than an hour after the Treasury delayed the sale of three-month and six-month Treasury bills. Secretary John Snow advised Congress that, without a debt ceiling raise, the federal government would likely be unable to pay its bills.

The Congressional Budget Office now estimates that American taxpayers will spend \$217 billion on national debt interest this year. When President Bush took office in 2001, the federal government was in the middle of a four-year budget surplus. As a result of the administration's fiscal policies, the Treasury now expects to borrow \$427 billion in fiscal 2006, and \$373 billion in fiscal 2007.

"President Bush is arguably the most fiscally reckless and irresponsible leader in American history," stated Shane Cory, Chief of Staff for the national LP. "His unsound economic decisions have betrayed the trust of Americans, as the debt burden on taxpayers grows by the day."

### Teacher sues after being fired for peace talk

A little less than three years ago, Deb Mayer, 55, was reportedly discharged from her job as a teacher at Clear Creek Elementary School in Monroe County, Ind. She wasn't accused of child abuse, of plotting to undermine school authorities, of deviating from lesson plans — or of any other crime, real or perceived.

Her "crime"? Talking about peace in the classroom.

At the time of Mayer's offense (mid-December 2002) the U.S. government was contemplating an invasion of Iraq. As part of a regularly scheduled class activity, Mayer's students discussed stories in a student issue of *Time* magazine, one of which was about a peace demonstration in Washington, D.C. Mayer told the students, aged 10-12, that she believes we should try to find a peaceful solution before going to war.

One student told her parents about the discussion, and her irate father showed up to complain about Mayer's "agenda." He accused her, predictably, of being unpatriotic, demanding that she never again use the word "peace" in the classroom.

The school principal reportedly promised that Mayer would refrain from mentioning peace in her class, but some parents weren't satisfied: They believe she should not have discussed her personal belief that the (then proposed) war in Iraq was wrong.

At the end of the year, Mayer was terminated.

School officials also, without explanation, cancelled "Peace Month," which had been scheduled for January 2003.

A federal jury is expected soon to decide whether the Monroe County Community School Corporation wrongfully terminated her employment and whether she should be compensated.

Mayer and her attorney contend that her constitutional right to free speech was violated, and that she was terminated unjustly. Mayer also says she was prevented from appropriately doing her job for the remainder of the year, as school administrators harassed her after her brief classroom discussion of peace.

### Bush sets vague timetable for exiting Iraq

On March 13, President Bush promised to transition most of the governance of Iraq to newly trained Iraqi troops by the end of 2006, for the first time setting a vague timetable for exiting Iraq — in an attempt to appease a skeptical American public, presumably responding to falling approval ratings.

Although the Bush administration has until now resisted firm timelines as the American occupation of Iraq continues, Bush has now begun laying out a strategy for leaving. The president has made no commitments about withdrawing U.S. troops, but in very general and vague terms has reiterated a plan in which Americans come home and Iraqi soldiers eventually take over combat operations.

This new campaign to rebuild American support for the U.S. military presence in Iraq comes nearly three years after the invasion, while the public's discontent grows almost by the day. Critics are now accusing the administration of using the hazy new plan to deter or stall heightened criticism.

"There is no doubt that President Bush, alarmed by falling poll numbers, has issued this vague plan solely to increase his support base," stated Shane Cory, chief of staff for the national LP. "The problem is that this plan is far too vague, and offers no real timetable, strategy or accountability. The Libertarian Party remains the only political party in America that has conceived a viable, practical plan for ending the armed conflict and redeploying American troops."

# Harry Browne dead at 72

Continued from Page 1

as a writer," Winter continues. "The job of any writer is to say something original and interesting, and to say it in clean, precise, energetic prose. Harry did that — brilliantly."

A host of columns about Browne and his impact on the American political scene — and on the hearts of thousands of Americans — have been posted to [www.HarryBrowne.org](http://www.HarryBrowne.org) since his death, and dozens of his articles from recent years are also still available at the site.

In addition to the organizations listed above, Browne had a long-standing relationship with the Advocates for Self-Government. Over the years he spoke at a number of Advocates seminars, joining other libertarian leaders in teaching activists the techniques of effective communication.

In fact, Browne's last public appearance was at the Advocates' 20th Anniversary Celebration in Atlanta in October 2005. Speaking from the wheelchair to which he was confined, Browne delivered two speeches — "The Seduction of Force" and "The Future Is NOT Hopeless."

"I was expecting to be overwhelmed with sadness at seeing him in a wheelchair," said President Sharon Harris of the Advocates. "But he had such grace, such cheerfulness, such stature, that he still seemed tall to me. I found myself unaware of any disability."

The Advocates also published Browne's most recent book, *Liberty A-Z: 872 Libertarian Soundbites You Can Use Right Now*.

Jim Babka, current president of the Downsize DC Foundation, said on [DownsizeDC.org](http://DownsizeDC.org) that in his opinion, "No one in the libertarian movement has ever done a better job of presenting [libertarian] ideals in an easy-to-understand and persuasive manner than Harry did."

Babka worked with Browne and had ample opportunity to hear Browne's "soundbite file," which was later polished and published as *Liberty A-Z*.

Browne was famously detail-oriented where his writing was concerned. Knowing that certain questions would repeatedly be asked of him — both during the campaign and afterwards, when he regularly



■ Harry Browne graciously accepted the Libertarian Party's nomination as its presidential candidate in 1996 and 2000. Most of those who have written about him since his March 1 death have noted two things: He was one of the greatest communicators the Libertarian Party — and the libertarian movement — have ever had, and he was consistently respectful, respectable and courteous. (File photo)

appeared on television and radio shows — he continually worked on his concise responses to the anticipated questions.

"Harry's excellence in communication was no accident," Sharon Harris said. "He worked tirelessly to become a master communicator."

Thanks to this book, all Libertarians can now benefit from Browne's years of polishing.

At the time of his death, Browne was reportedly working on a book about American foreign policy, to be entitled *The War Racket*. No word has been released concerning whether the book will be published posthumously.

In the days following his death, Browne was remembered in newspapers across the country and internationally. One of them, *Orange County Register* columnist Alan Bock said, "It was too bad that third-party candidates weren't allowed into the televised debates, because Harry looked more presidential than either of the major-party candidates. He was tall, gray-haired and dignified, and soft-spoken while almost never retreating from core libertarian principles."

One newspaper, the *Boston Globe*, featured two columns about Browne — one from Cathy Young and one from Jeff Jacoby.

"He knew I was a fan of his," Ja-

coby wrote. "Twice I had voted for him as president. The first time was in 1996, when I wouldn't vote to re-elect Bill Clinton and couldn't bring myself to support either of his two leading opponents. Instead, I pulled the lever for the distinguished-looking Libertarian and bestselling author who wanted to repeal the Internal Revenue Code and abolish most federal agencies, and who spoke with such refreshing bluntness about the maddening inability of the state to get things right."

Speaking at the Libertarian National Committee's quarterly meeting recently, acting LP Communications Director Sam New said that he first heard of libertarianism through Browne's second presidential campaign — a story that reappears in various forms on many blogs and Web sites, from a host of people.

Thomas Knapp, a Libertarian blogger, summed up many people's recollections of Browne when he wrote, "Harry Browne was the first presidential candidate I actually felt good about voting for — the first one who wasn't just a 'lesser evil,' and the first one who didn't leave me worried that I'd regret having supported him if he actually won."

Harry Browne was a great libertarian communicator, a great author and — by all accounts — a great man. He will be missed.

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



# Libertarian councilman in Georgia helps cut 5 percent of city budget

Libertarian Jeff Edgens, who was elected on Nov. 8 as a city councilman in Irwinton, Ga., has already been able to have a significant impact in the city.

He was recently able to eliminate about 5 percent of the city's annual budget, after only two months in office.

In addition to serving as a city council member, Edgens is assistant dean at Georgia Military College.

Until August 2005, the city paid a fee to dump its trash — collected city wide — in a nearby landfill.

But then the landfill was sold, and the tipping fee was no longer needed.

However, the city continued collecting the fee from all those who are hooked up to the city's water supply, even after the fee was no longer being used to pay for that service.

Granted, it was only about \$12,700 total annual revenue for the city, but in a city of only 600 residents that amount represents a significant percentage: The city's total budget is about \$195,000, Edgens said.

The fee had been assessed monthly by being tacked on to the water bills that were sent to almost 700 people, including those who live outside the city limits but who receive city water bills. This was one of three fees added onto the water bill each month.

The city collected the fee for six

months after it was no longer warranted.

"The city council had discussed what should be done before, but there was some opposition to eliminating the fee," Edgens said.

In Irwinton, there are four city councilmen in addition to the mayor, and they could not agree what

**"I HAD TO EXPLAIN  
that collecting too  
much in taxes ...  
just because expenses  
may someday increase  
simply isn't right."**

—JEFF EDGENS

should be done about the situation.

Then Edgens started his four-year term in office in January, after winning almost 54 percent support in the two-way election in November. He realized that continuing to collect the fee was dishonest, and managed to convince the other councilmen.

"One of the other city council members wanted to roll that fee over ... just in case the garbage collector ever goes up on his charges," Edgens said. "I had to explain to him that collecting too much in tax-

es and fees right now just because city expenses may someday increase simply wasn't the right thing to do."

At one of his first meetings while in office, Edgens made a motion to eliminate the fee — and the other councilmen unanimously approved his recommendation.

When Edgens was running for office, he stressed three campaign goals: to reduce taxes, to reduce spending, and to protect private property rights. He's already been able to convince the other city leaders to allow city residents to keep about 5 percent of the money that was taken from them each year.

So far, so good.

Edgens said he hopes to be elected mayor pro tempore during his time on the city council, because that position would allow him to more directly affect the city's operations.

"Along with Georgia's other elected Libertarian, Ben Brandon, Jeff Edgens is carrying forward the Libertarian promise to reduce the size of government," said Georgia LP Executive Director Trevor Southerland.

"Jeff Edgens is a role model for Libertarians," Southerland added. "He went out, got elected to his city council and is now making a difference.

"That's the way Libertarians can make a difference, by working hard and winning elections."

# County commissioner in New Mexico changes registration to Libertarian

On February 24, Paul Edward Trujillo, chairman of the Valencia County, N.M., board of commissioners, changed his party registration from Democrat to Libertarian.

County commissioners are elected by district to four-year terms, and Trujillo is planning to run for re-election in District 3 this year as a Libertarian.

The board is in charge of appointing a county manager, overseeing the county's \$18 million annual budget, creating local laws and ordinances, and handling zoning and business regulations in the unincorporated portions of the county.

Trujillo recently sent a message to leaders of the New Mexico LP, asking for their support in the upcoming election.

"The election will be challenging but I believe I can gather enough support from the various parties to win the seat as a third party candidate," he said.

Trujillo apparently already has support from county leaders affiliated with both the Republican and Democratic parties.

He was recently unanimously elected as chairman of the commission by the other commissioners. At that time, he was still a Democrat, and the majority of the commission is Republican.

Leaders of the local Republican Party had also reportedly asked him to seek re-election as a Republican, while Trujillo says that Democratic Party leaders were still trying to keep him "in the fold."

"However, I had already departed from the party line and was implementing a Libertarian approach to issues without really being aware of the Libertarian philosophy," he said.

Trujillo noted that his switch to the Libertarian Party was prompted primarily by the party's "non-initiation of force" stance.

Valencia County is located in central New Mexico and has a population of 66,152, according to the 2000 census.

## ABORTION IS UNLIBERTARIAN

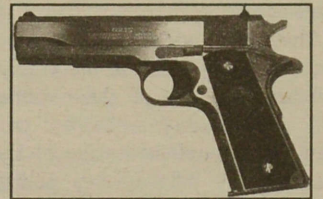
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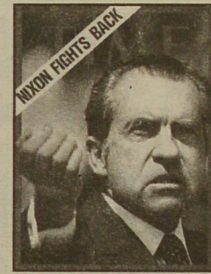
## Smoking bans, gun grades, and voting

■ The Brady Campaign, which annually grades states on their gun laws, has released its 2005 grades, according to an NRA newsletter. The campaign supports gun prohibition and has an extremely simplistic rating system: More gun laws, higher grade. For 2005 the group gave 10 Fs, 22 Ds — and the average grade is a D+. However, as the NRA noted, "there is no correlation between Brady's grades and violent crime. For example, six of the 10 states Brady gives an F and 13 of the 22 states Brady gives a D have violent crime rates below the national rate.



■ Darla Maloney, state chair of the Missouri LP, was featured in a March 8 story in the *Missourian News* concerning a proposed smoking ban in Columbia, Mo. Members of the Libertarian Party and other groups protested the proposal at the county Board of Health building. The proposed law would ban smoking in most indoor "public" places, and the definition of public is very loose: Only private offices not visited by the public and with separate ventilation systems would be exempted. Smoking sections in restaurants and bars would also be prohibited. It is already illegal to smoke within 20 feet of the entrance of a building where smoking is prohibited, but the Board of Health wants to tighten the smoking ban, taking business decisions (and personal freedoms) into government hands.

■ The "Marginalia" column in the April 2006 edition of *Playboy* includes a quote from Richard Nixon that is startling in its similarity to something President George W. Bush might say, although Bush would probably mangle it. The quote is from a 1977 television interview with Nixon. "When the president does it, that means that it is not illegal. If the president, for example, approves something because of national security, or in this case because of a threat to internal peace and order of significant magnitude, then the president's decision in that instance is one that enables those who carry it out to carry it out without violating a law."



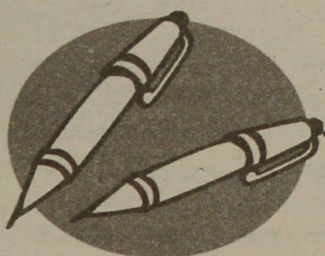
■ Libertarian Michael Murphy recently joined representatives of the Democrat and Republican parties at a high school in Roseville, Calif., — along with a representative of the county's Registrar of Voters office — to help educate the voting-age students about politics and help them fill out voter registration cards. Such meetings are being held in high schools around Placer County. This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year of this program, which has drastically increased the number of high school students who vote. About 80 percent of eligible high school students are now registered to vote, and almost three-quarters of those actually turn out to vote, officials said.

■ Both the Republicans and the Democrats have rejected overtures from a Missouri man who desperately wants to run for Congress. Glenn Miller is reportedly the former leader of the White Patriot Party. Now he's looking for a political party that will accept his candidacy for Congress. According to the Associated Press, Miller planned next to try to file "as a Libertarian, an independent or a write-in candidate." According to the Missouri secretary of state's Web site, there is already a Libertarian candidate for the seat.

■ In an interview published recently by the *New York Times*, retired Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan said he believes there will soon be a major candidate for president who won't be either the Democrat or a Republican. Greenspan is currently writing a book, and said he plans to argue in the book that the "ideological divide" between the two major parties leaves "a vast untended center from which a well-financed independent presidential candidate is likely to emerge in 2008 or ... 2012."



■ Scott Bludorn, who ran for Illinois state representative in 2004 as a Libertarian, is running again for office in the 53<sup>rd</sup> House District, again facing GOP incumbent Rep. Sidney Mathias, according to a March 10 report in the *Chicago Tribune*. But this time Bludorn (formerly president of the Cook County LP) is "billing himself ... as a 'Reagan Republican,'" and has been endorsed by the Wheeling Township GOP, the *Tribune* reported.



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# Working toward affiliate agreement in the post-UMP environment

Continued from Page 1

practices standpoint," Dixon said.

LNC members agreed that FEC compliance, data exchange, core and critical activities reporting, and support for the delegate-selected presidential candidate should all be included in the affiliate services agreement.

They also added several components they feel are necessary, including the use of the national LP's (in-progress) branding program, state implementation of the national LP's data privacy policy, the inclusion of an "anti-takeover"

provision, and ensuring that the state parties have access to training by the national LP's staff or outside contractors.

Dixon said he will be in contact with leaders of LSLA to further work on details of the agreement.

In other business:

LNC member Adm. Michael Colley, Ret., noted that despite a lengthy search, he has not found the "right person" to become executive director of the national LP. He also reported that he had discontinued his search, saying that the LP doesn't have the money right now

to hire an ED if a suitable candidate was found.

In an unexpected move, Treasurer Mark Nelson proposed that Dixon be empowered with negotiating a contract with acting Chief of Staff Shane Cory, who has been leading LP headquarters staff since former ED Joe Seehusen resigned in the summer of 2005.

This proposal was approved by all LNC members in the room at the time. Dixon is to formulate a contract with Cory, "offering him the position ... at a salary that is within our budgetary constraints and craft-

ed to include performance expectations," in accordance with Nelson's motion.

The LNC will, of course, have to approve the contract after it's prepared. Cory is not yet officially the new executive director, but steps are being taken in that direction.

At the suggestion of LNC member M Carling of California, the LNC commended the staff at LP headquarters in Washington, D.C., "for its hard work and dedication in the absence of an executive director."

Admiral Colley also noted that the long-anticipated move of LP headquarters to another office in the Watergate Building has been accomplished. The move was handled over a weekend, and the office now has more usable space, in a smaller floorplan, than was available in the old office.

"It really came out well," Colley said. "Staying in that building was the right thing to do — and our staff now has plenty of office space

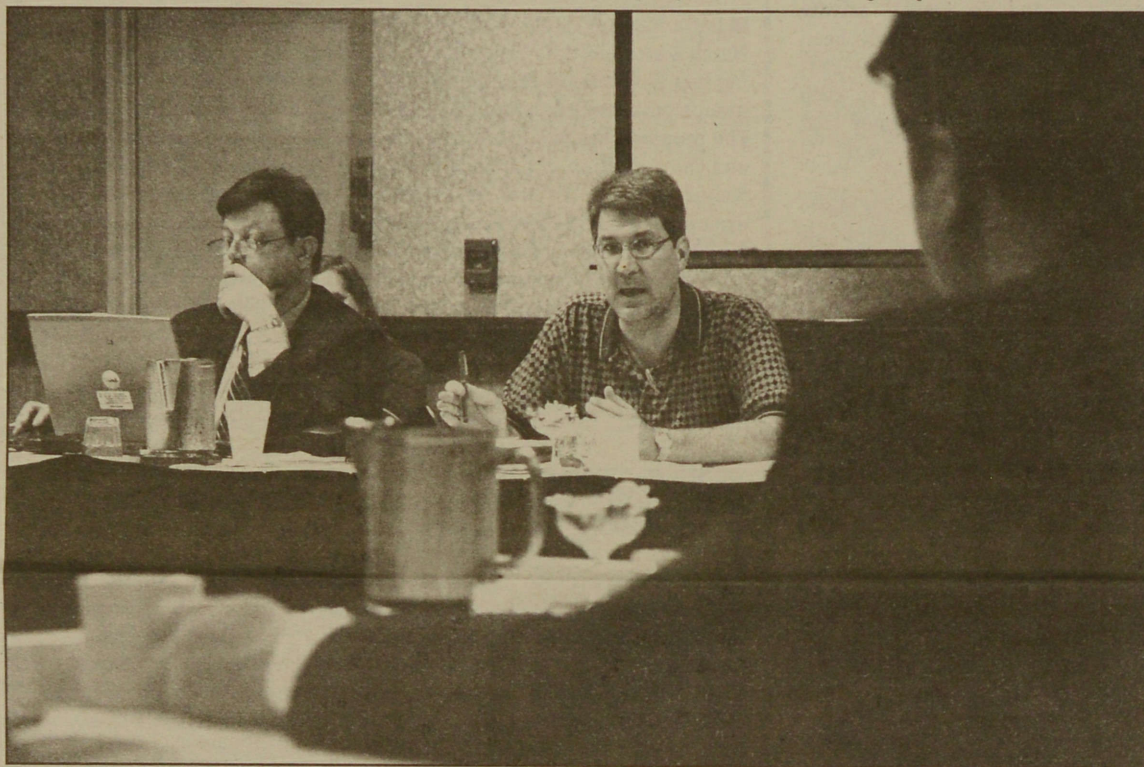
and a real conference room, in essentially the same amount of space we used to have."

The new office address is exactly the same as the old, with the exception of the suite number. It is now: 2600 Virginia Avenue NW, Suite 200, Washington DC 20037.

Finally, Bruce Donver of the LP's Program Committee presented a draft version of the new LP Program.

The LNC approved of the document, for the most part, with member Mark Rutherford calling it the "first LP document that addresses LP goals in a positive way. This is the first thing that puts the LP's policies on war in a way that would keep me from getting lynched in Indiana."

The program is to be presented in final form to the LNC by the end of April, allowing two months to review, approve and produce as a part of the convention package — to be distributed to delegates at the July 1-2 convention in Portland, Ore.



■ LNC Chair Michael Dixon (center) addresses national LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory (foreground) at the LNC's recent quarterly meeting, held March 11-12 in Charlotte, N.C. Among other business, the members of the Libertarian National Committee voted to have Dixon formulate a contract naming Cory as LP executive director, replacing Joe Seehusen, who resigned last summer. Also pictured (at left) is LNC Secretary Bob Sullentrup. —Photo by LP News Editor J. Daniel Cloud

## Hancock announces for LP chair

Ernest Hancock, a Libertarian activist in Phoenix, Ariz., has announced he is running for the position of national chairman of the Libertarian Party.

Hancock is the third person to announce his challenge to current chairman Michael Dixon, who was elected at the 2004 convention. George Phillies and Bill Redpath have also announced their candidacy for the chairmanship.

Two of the three faced Dixon at the 2004 election, which Dixon won with 76 percent of the 572 delegate votes cast on the first ballot: Hancock received 16 percent of the vote, and Phillies received 7 percent.

[See the March 2006 LP News for a story about Dixon, Phillies and Redpath's candidacies for chair this year.]

In addition to running for chair of the national LP, Hancock has several times been a Libertarian candidate for political office, running over the years for seats ranging from Congress to the Arizona House of Representatives, to Arizona Sec-

retary of State.

He has also been a plaintiff in numerous lawsuits against the government for violations of the Constitution.

He also served as chairman of the Libertarian Party of Maricopa County, Ariz., in 1994-95 and 1998.

In his open letter announcing his candidacy for LP chair, Hancock said he was exposed to the libertarian philosophy in 1991, and the event "lifted a great burden from me. Like many others, I was very pleased to learn that principles of truth and justice had been able to make their way into the political arena, where they were greatly needed."

Hancock said that if elected, he "can be counted on to follow the contract the party has with its members (its platform and bylaws) and not deviate for a moment from libertarian principles."

The primary goal of the Libertarian Party should not be getting votes for Libertarians, but to "lead in the national political debate with the most powerful and moral phi-

losophy yet developed for human interaction," Hancock said.

"The idea that votes are more important than freeing the minds of the people who would freely support us when we demonstrate that we seek freedom above recognition is counterproductive to all we hope to accomplish. Not only do I intend to use this campaign for the chairmanship to demonstrate a desire and ability to place libertarian philosophy as a solution to the problems facing America into the minds of the people in America and the rest of the world, but to ask why it hasn't been done already."

Delegates to the 2006 LP convention, to be held in Portland, Ore., on July 1-2, will cast their votes for the chairmanship — as well as for all other LNC officers and for regional and at-large representatives.

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](http://www.lpconvention.org).

## Art Olivier plans run against Gov. Schwarzenegger in '06

Former Libertarian Party vice presidential candidate Art Olivier has announced that he will enter the 2006 gubernatorial race in California.

Olivier will face Republican incumbent Arnold Schwarzenegger, who was elected to office during the 2003 recall election, in which California voters ousted Gov. Gray Davis, a Democrat.

Among the other declared candidates for the 2006 election are California State Treasurer Phil Angelides and Green Party candidate Peter Miguel Camejo.

Olivier ran for governor of California in 2002 as the Libertarian candidate.

Before that, he served for several years in city government in Bellflower, a city of about 77,000 where he still lives with his family.

Olivier was elected as a city councilman in 1994, serving in that position until 1997 when he became mayor pro tempore. Then in 1998-1999 he was mayor of the Los Angeles suburb.

In 2000 Olivier was Harry Browne's running mate; delegates to the national LP convention selected him over opponents Ken Krawchuk and Steve Kubby.

During his five years in Bellflower city government, Olivier was able to privatize the city's tree trimming, street sweeping and the building department. He also eliminated the city's lighting tax assessment and refused to allow eminent domain to be exercised as long as he was on the city council.

Why is he running for governor? Gov. Schwarzenegger "broke his promise for fiscal restraint with his budget — which is 30 percent higher than the one that got Da-

vis recalled just three years ago," Olivier said when announcing his candidacy.

Olivier also noted that benefits for government workers should not exceed the benefits earned by taxpayers, and that "with common sense changes in how California is governed, additional bonds for infrastructure would be unnecessary. And after our current massive deficit is turned into a surplus, taxes would be cut."

"Our state government is too big, taxes are too high and our debt is increasing with every new bond measure that is passed," Olivier says on his Web site, adding that he would "steadfastly reduce the size of the state government," starting with the "most corrupt programs."

### Online Resources for LP Members

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

Visit: [www.LP.org](http://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](http://www.LP.org)  
Click on: Organization  
Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership  
Visit: [www.LP.org](http://www.LP.org)  
Click on: Membership  
Click on: Renew your membership or subscription



## AFFILIATE NEWS

# Eliminating a government office and targeting the GOP

### ■ CALIFORNIA

## Working to disband a government board

Tom Tryon, a Libertarian who is a member of the Calaveras County Board of Supervisors, has a plan to save taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

The executive director of the Calaveras Council of Governments — George Dondero, who has led the council since 1998, when the agency was formed to plan highway projects for the county — has announced that he is leaving to take a job at a larger agency.

With the executive director leaving, Tryon has suggested simply disbanding the council, according to a March 9 newspaper report.

The expense of having an independent agency for highway planning in Calaveras County isn't warranted, and Dondero's resignation gives the county a good chance to just eliminate the Council of Governments, Tryon has said.

According to the newspaper story, the council exists primarily to "keep the peace" between the two governments: the county and the sole incorporated city in the county, Angels Camp.

"The administrative cost balance is way out of whack, in my opinion," Tryon told the newspaper, noting that about \$350,000 of the council's \$585,000 annual budget goes to overhead expenses.

By contrast, the administrative costs for highway planning were only about \$80,000 per year when a county-run transportation commission was responsible for planning in Calaveras.

Rather than hiring a new executive director, at an annual cost of approximately \$100,000, the Council of Governments should simply be eliminated, Tryon said.

The council's board will meet again in April to decide whether or not to begin searching for Dondero's replacement. The board has been urged to consider all available options — including Tryon's proposal to disband the council.

### ■ PENNSYLVANIA

## Krawchuk declines nomination for Senate

In early March, Libertarian Ken Krawchuk declined the Pennsylvania LP's nomination for U.S. Senate, citing the state's "insane" signature requirements.

Third-party candidates in Pennsylvania this year will have to collect a minimum of 67,070 signatures

to get on the statewide ballot, along with an extra 30,000 signatures or so to ensure that there are enough good signatures to overcome any challenges.

By contrast, Democrats and Republicans only have to receive their party's nomination.

"There is no way I'm going to ask the Libertarian Party to attempt to collect over 100,000 signatures to get my name on the ballot," Krawchuk explained during a brief address to delegates at the Pennsylvania LP's annual convention.

"For the last year, I have focused all my political energy on eliminating Pennsylvania's unconstitutional ballot access hurdles," Krawchuk said. "I helped hand every single state legislator a copy of our Voters' Choice Act, which lowers the signature requirements, but they haven't moved on it."

"I petitioned the federal government in District Court to rule the outrageous signature requirements unconstitutional, but they haven't moved on that either. I've run out of options."

When state legislators approved a massive pay raise for themselves last fall, they "merely stole our money," he said.

And that's bad enough.

"But with their ballot access laws, they are stealing our rights. As a result, voters in Pennsylvania will go to the polls facing the same old choices they've always had — and the insane ballot access laws guarantee that things aren't going to change."

### ■ TENNESSEE

## Tax fighter Dumas seeks county commission seat

Joe Dumas, a Libertarian in Chattanooga, Tenn., has announced his candidacy for Hamilton County Commission — despite the fact that Tennessee ballot access laws do not recognize any parties other than the Democrat and Republican parties.

"I expect to be endorsed by the county and state LP affiliates, but I will be listed on the ballot as an independent candidate," said Dumas, who is a long-time Libertarian.

Dumas is known in the county as an avid taxpayer advocate, having continually fought tax increases — and having gotten significant press coverage for his efforts — for several years.

He is a professor in the Computer Science and Electrical Engineering department at the University of Tennessee in Chattanooga.

"On the bright side," he said,

his "independent" status may help him "to recruit support from other alternative parties, as well as true independents."

Dumas also hopes to get the vote of a number of Democrats in the county, since there is no Democratic Party candidate on the ballot.

"And I hope that fiscally conservative Republicans may also desert their tax-and-spend candidate in my favor, assuming he wins his primary," he said.

"For too long, District 2 has been represented by a tax-and-spend liberal politician masquerading as a Republican," Dumas continued, in a press release announcing his candidacy.

"My incumbent opponent has apparently never seen a tax increase proposal he didn't like and has done nothing to stop the constant growth of county government at the expense of Hamilton County's hard-working, and retired, citizens."

Dumas said he wants to be recognized as every property owner's best friend — and if he's elected, he'll do everything he can to roll back a property tax enacted in 2005. His opponent supported the increase.

### ■ TEXAS

## School choice brought to legislators' attention

The Texas LP is making an issue of school choice as the state legislature heads into a special legislative session to discuss school finance.

Gov. Rick Perry has specifically stated that he "does not want reforms to be addressed in the session," Texas LP Chair Patrick Dixon says.

"The upcoming legislative special session seems to be all about empowering government to take more taxes out of our pockets, and not about empowering teachers and parents to make choices," Dixon said in a recent press release.

"Gov. Perry has set the special session on school finance in April to focus on tax plans to raise more revenue for the government education system," Dixon continued.

"Parents of all income levels should have the ability to make choices that will best provide for their children."

The LP supports reforms that would allow parents to choose which schools best serve their children, and would allow teachers to choose the best teaching methods to educate their classes.

Teachers shouldn't simply be given a "one-size-fits-all mandate from the state and federal govern-

ments," he said.

"It's a shame people waste so much energy fighting over what's appropriate to teach our children. School choice would let all sides choose their own way. Parents would be able to choose schools with an appropriate religious component, no religion, or even a prohibition against religion."

School choice would also allow parents to select schools based on their preference for a specific method of teaching math, languages and other subjects, Dixon added — noting that the governor and legislature should not limit their search for a solution to the failing education system by dismissing any solution that isn't government based.

### ■ UTAH

## LP will target GOP in upcoming elections

Last summer, the Utah LP issued a challenge to the state Senate and House of Representatives, the leadership of the state's Democrat and Republican parties, and the student body presidents of colleges and universities in the state.

The challenge: Which of the two major parties could do more to make elections more fair.

The Fair Representation Challenge is over, with the Democrats coming out on top.

Since August, when the challenge was issued, the Republican Party has done less to make elections in the state more competitive and representative, the LP concluded.

Because of this, Republican candidates in swing districts will receive more opposition from Libertarian candidates in the upcoming elections, according to a press release from the Utah LP.

This doesn't mean the Democrats will have a free ride in the election process, state LP chair Rob Latham said.

"Democratic incumbents and candidates will not be left alone in uncompetitive districts," he stressed in the press release. "Republican legislators did more to lose the Fair Representation Challenge than Democratic legislators did to win."

Libertarian candidates will be encouraged to pitch their ideas to Republican voters in swing districts, Latham said, noting that, historically, Libertarians who do so have generally succeeded in ensuring that their targets lose the elections in question.

The end goal is to get Utah to institute a proportional representation system.

Such a system would help ensure that all voters in the state can rest assured that they are adequately represented in the political system — rather than relying on the winner-take-all voting system currently in place, Latham added.

### ■ VERMONT

## Supreme Court examines campaign finance law

On Feb. 28, Vermont LP Chair Hardy Machia and Treasurer Michael Bandler were in the gallery of the

Supreme Court in Washington, D.C., to hear the challenge to Vermont's controversial campaign finance law.

The Vermont LP is one of several participants in a lawsuit challenging the law.

At the end of the proceedings, Machia predicted that the law will not survive the justices' scrutiny.

"All the justices seemed opposed to spending caps, and most of them seemed opposed to the extremely small limits on contributions," Machia said.

"It was clear that many of the justices have serious reservations about the law. The law is not going to survive their scrutiny — and parts, if not all, of the law will certainly be struck down."

The Supreme Court justices reportedly were skeptical of Vermont Attorney General William Sorrell's arguments in favor of keeping the law.

According to newspaper reports, they will have to decide whether the states should be able to set campaign spending limits, as they currently do, or whether a 1976 campaign finance ruling is sufficient precedent to reject Vermont's law.

During the proceedings, the justices voiced concerns that Vermont's donation limits are so low that "a box of doughnuts and some coffee" for campaign workers could violate the law, Machia said — noting that the justices also alluded to the issue as one of speech protected by the First Amendment.

While some other states limit the amount that individuals can donate to a political campaign, the Vermont law places low and strict restrictions on individual donations. No individual can donate more than \$400 to any statewide candidate and no more than \$2,000 to any political party.

Vermont was the first state in the country to limit the amount a candidate can spend on a race, ranging from \$300,000 for governor to a low of \$2,000 for state representative.

Machia said he was surprised at the manner in which Sorrell defended the law.

The Attorney General implied "that Vermont needs such harsh campaign restrictions because our elections are somehow corrupt," he said.

But when pressed on this point by the justices, Sorrell said that to date, there have not been any prosecuted cases of corruption.

Since the law passed in 1997, the Vermont LP has maintained that the state should not prevent anyone in the state from supporting the parties and candidates of their choice to the extent they wish.

The requirements give "an unfair advantage to the major, established, parties who already have a broad base of existing donors, and discriminates against minor party challengers," Machia said. "It effectively stifles the efforts of the underdogs to get their message out to the people."

"I'm optimistic the court will side with libertarians and uphold our right to freedom of political speech."



## TALKING POINTS

# Federal budget, the B-2 bomber, and so-called security programs

### ■ Surveillance

Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales appeared to suggest yesterday that the Bush administration's warrant-less domestic surveillance operations may extend beyond the outlines that the president acknowledged in mid-December.

In a letter yesterday to senators in which he asked to clarify his Feb. 6 testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee, Gonzales also seemed to imply that the administration's original legal justification for the program was not as clear-cut as he indicated three weeks ago.

At that appearance, Gonzales confined his comments to the National Security Agency's warrant-less wiretapping program, saying

that President Bush had authorized it "and that is all that he has authorized."

But in yesterday's letter, Gonzales, citing that quote, wrote: "I did not and could not address ... any other classified intelligence activities."

At least one constitutional scholar who testified before the committee yesterday said in an interview that Gonzales appeared to be hinting that the operation disclosed by the *New York Times* in mid-December is not the full extent of eavesdropping on U.S. residents conducted without court warrants.

Bush secretly began the program in October 2001, Gonzales's letter said.

One government source who has been briefed on the issue confirmed yesterday that the administration believed from the beginning that the president had the constitutional authority to order the eavesdropping, and only more recently added the force resolution argument as a legal justification.

—CHARLES BABINGTON AND DAN EGGEN  
*The Washington Post*  
March 1, 2006

### ■ Protest

A man holds up a sign. He stands beside a public road in a public place. Around him are thousands of people, many holding up signs.

The man holds up a sign that protests the ongoing war in Iraq. He thinks the president and the people in power are responsible for this war.

Half a mile away, in a muddy depression near another road, the man's friends hold up their signs, also handmade, also protesting the war. There is no parking there. The only people aware of their protest are the police who direct them there and forbid them to park.

The man is told that he must put down his sign and go to a specially designated "free speech zone," that muddy depression half a mile away — away from the media, from the gathered crowd, and from the president, whose plane will be landing shortly.

The crowd waiting in line to see the president — more than 6,000 people show up — surrounds him.

The man holds up his sign and explains to the policeman that he is standing in a free speech zone — it is called the United States of America.

He is told he must put down his sign or leave, or he will be arrested for trespassing.

A man holds up a sign on a pub-

lic road in a public place. And he is arrested.

When asked, a local police official admits that it is the content of his sign that requires his removal.

Later, local authorities will drop their trespassing charges, but four months later, federal authorities, led by local federal prosecutor Strom Thurmond Jr., will press charges under a law designed to protect the life of the president.

What is the threat to the president? The cardboard the sign is made from? The aging man with a ponytail and sore joints holding it up? The words, "No War for Oil — Don't Invade Iraq"?

South Carolinian Brett Bursey's conviction stands, and on Friday he had to pay a \$500 fine for holding up a cardboard sign on a public roadway in a public space, at the Columbia airport.

I stood in line in the courthouse on Friday with other folks who showed up to pay \$1 toward Bursey's fine. I was there because he stood up for his — and my — right to speak freely. ...

What is free speech worth?  
—ED MADDEN  
*The [Columbia, S.C.] Free Times*  
March 1, 2006

### ■ Oversight

The President claims that his NSA surveillance program isn't reviewable by courts. The ballot box, not the gavel, is the only check on presidential national security policy, he says.

He justifies it by claiming unilateral constitutional power to adopt security policies contrary to those of courts and Congress.

But it turns out the president can have his cake and eat it too. Even as he asserts unilateral power over national security, he remains free to dodge voters' ire by blaming Congress. Consider exhibit A: In December 2005, the 9/11 commission issued its final report card. It gave "more F's than A's" to the administration's security reforms.

Did the president assume full responsibility? Not on your life. White House spokesman Dan Bartlett appeared on morning shows to blame Congress for dragging its feet and failing to implement presidential recommendations for the terror war. Yet, if the president seriously be-

lieves his claim of special authority over foreign affairs, then blaming Congress is a non sequitur. He could have adopted the 9/11 commission's recommendations without further congressional action.

Here's the problem: If the president's executive power over foreign affairs is unreviewable by courts, as he claims, distracting finger pointing is likely to continue. The reason is simple: If the president can evade Congress under the flag of national security, outmoded laws (like our electronic surveillance laws) stay on the books. New practices, like the NSA program, are birthed in secrecy. That gives the president maximum flexibility behind closed doors.

But because old, outmoded laws

### ■ Leaving Iraq

President Bush declared in his State of the Union address that the decision to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq would be made by our military commanders, not by politicians in Washington, D.C.

But what about Iraqi politicians? Assuming that the Sadr faction in the Iraqi parliament holds together, could the end of the U.S. military mission in Iraq be dictated by elected officials in Iraq?

In the past, members of the Bush administration have said that the U.S. military would leave if asked to do so by the Iraqi government.

Over a year ago, just before the first nationwide elections in Iraq,

President Bush said that the United States would honor a request by the Iraqi government to remove U.S. troops from the country. While he stressed that he did not believe the new government would do such a thing, the president replied, "Yes, absolutely. This is a sovereign government. They're on their feet."

Iraqis aren't buying it. A poll taken last month by the Program on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) found that more than three out of every four Iraqis (76 percent) believe the United States would ignore a demand by the new Iraqi government to withdraw all U.S. forces out of Iraq within six months.

It seems unlikely that the Iraqi government will request such an abrupt departure.

While an overwhelming 70 percent of Iraqis favor the establishment of a timeline for the removal of U.S. forces, only half of those would like to see all forces out in six months. The remainder favors a gradual withdrawal over a two-year period. On the other hand, a mere 29 percent support the Bush administration's long-standing position that American forces should only be withdrawn as the security situation improves in Iraq.

—CHRISTOPHER PREBLE  
*Cato Daily Commentary*  
February 24, 2006

### ■ Budget cuts

Conservative voters are looking for reassurances that Republicans are still the party of small government. They won't find much solace in the president's new budget. With each passing year, George W. Bush's budgets get less and less ambitious.

Bush proposed a 2 percent increase in overall spending for fiscal 2007. That's certainly better than the 10 percent growth inflicted on taxpayers in the budget for 2006 — assuming that Congress rubber-stamps the White House's new request for Iraq and Hurricane Katrina relief (which it probably will)

and a fuzzy division of authority persist, he can deflect criticism onto Congress when his shadowy policies prove unpopular (as with the NSA program) or fail (as with intelligence restructuring).

—MARK MOLLER  
*Orange County Register*  
March 2, 2006

### ■ Howling congressmen

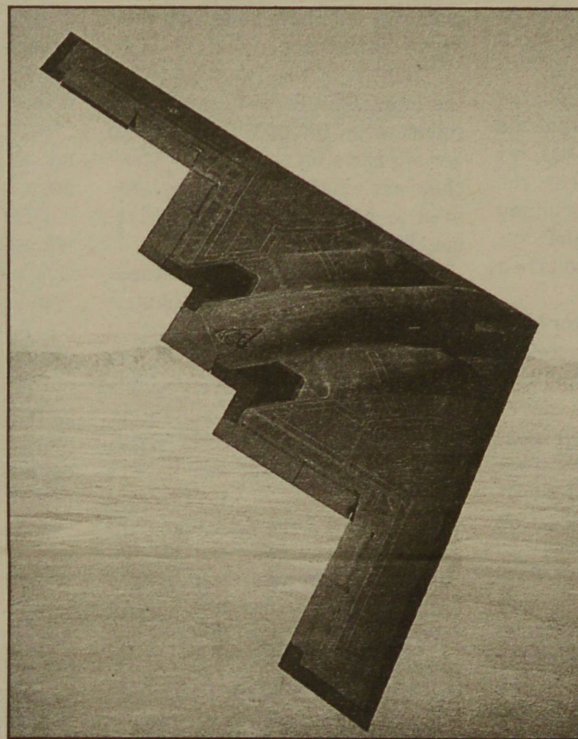
"The B2 bomber has a piece of it made in every single state to make sure that if you ever tried to phase that project out, you will get howls from among the most liberal members of Congress," said Chalmers Johnson, former CIA consultant and author, in Eugene Jarecki's "Why We Fight," a new documentary examining the influence of the military-industrial complex on U.S. foreign policy.

—DETAILS MAGAZINE  
January-February 2006

### ■ What the...?

Earlier today, President Bush flew to New Orleans. There was an awkward moment when the president looked around and said "Oh my god, what the hell happened here?"

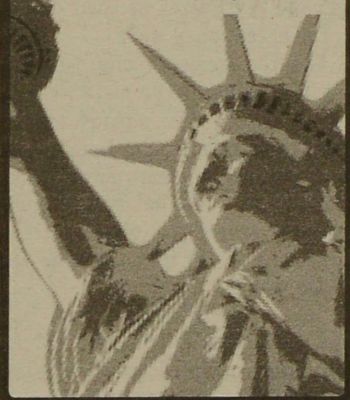
—CONAN O'BRIEN  
*Late Night with Conan O'Brien*  
March 8, 2006



**"THE SMALLEST  
MINORITY  
ON EARTH IS THE  
INDIVIDUAL."**

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential 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.





and doesn't find offsetting budget cuts elsewhere (which it probably won't).

But the 2 percent growth does not include money for operations in Iraq for the entire year.

The White House assumes a request for \$50 billion at a later date, but based on past experience, this estimate is low. The supplemental request for the current fiscal year has already ballooned to \$120 billion.

—STEPHEN SLIVINSKI

*Star Telegraph Online*  
February 20, 2006

## ■ School security

New Jersey's Freehold Borough School District has installed new biometric eye scanners as part of its security system. Those wishing to enter school buildings without being buzzed in must have their eyes scanned into the system. That includes not only staff and delivery people, but parents as well.

—CHARLES OLIVER

*Reason.com*  
March 2, 2006

## ■ President Clinton?

Hillary Clinton said today that she didn't know her husband, Bill Clinton, was giving the Arabs advice on the port deal while she was ruling against it. Can you believe that? Hillary was clueless about a major political event? You know what that means: She could really be the next president of the United States.

—JAY LENO

*The Tonight Show*  
March 8, 2006

## ■ Budget deficit

If the United States kept its books like [any other business], the 2005 budget deficit would be \$760 billion and rising, not \$319 billion and falling, as is commonly reported.

"These are genuinely alarming numbers," Rep. Jim Cooper, D-Tenn., said of the figures in the 2005 Financial Report of the United States Government, issued by the U.S. Treasury Department.

Cooper, who unearthed the annual report on the department's website, said fewer than 20 members of Congress received copies of the 154-page financial report.

"When we called for copies they almost laughed at me," Cooper said at a Thursday news conference. Calls to the Treasury Department seeking comment were not returned.

How can two reports on the same budget be so different? It's a matter of what's counted.

The budget figures usually bandied about in Washington are the amounts the government takes in and spends each year.

The financial report, which has been an annual requirement since the mid-1990s, does what businesses are required to do: include the cost of promised benefits.

And between Veterans Affairs, Social Security and Medicare, the U.S. government has made huge fi-

nancial promises to a growing number of people. ...

Meanwhile, Congress is poised in the next few weeks to raise the debt ceiling — the total amount of borrowing the country is allowed — from \$8.18 trillion to nearly \$9 trillion.

—BILL THEOBALD

*USA Today*  
March 2, 2006

## ■ Smoking Bans

Flirtations with smoking bans in Virginia and Maryland came to abrupt ends yesterday, as legislative

panels in each state rejected bills that would have made restaurants and virtually all other public places smoke-free.

In Virginia, a House of Delegates subcommittee unanimously rejected a bill that had won Senate approval despite the state's long-standing ties to the tobacco industry.

In Maryland, a House committee chaired by a Baltimore delegate whose downtown district is dotted with bars and taverns turned back a similar proposal by a narrow margin.

Health groups — including the American Cancer Society, the

American Heart Association and the American Lung Association — lobbied extensively for the bans.

Delegates in both states said that many business owners have prohibited smoking in response to customer demands but that those who wish to cater to smokers should be allowed to do so.

"I want to have smoke-free restaurants and businesses. But in America, you don't pass a law to tell a private business owner who is paying rent or mortgage payments what he can and can't do in his own place," said Del. David B. Albo (R-Fairfax).

Many lawmakers had predicted a quick death in the Virginia House, which has a long history of rejecting measures its members say amount to government nannyism.

—ROSALIND S. HELDERMAN & ANN E. MARIMOW  
*The Washington Post*  
February 24, 2006

## ■ War costs

Total projected cost of the [Iraq] war per U.S. household, based on a January estimate: \$19,600

—HARPER'S INDEX

*Harper's Magazine*  
March 2006

# LIBERTARIAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL

## ANNOUNCING A NEW DEVELOPMENT IN LIBERTARIAN EDUCATION!

The Libertarian Leadership School (LLS)  
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to train Libertarian Party affiliates, campaigns and members.

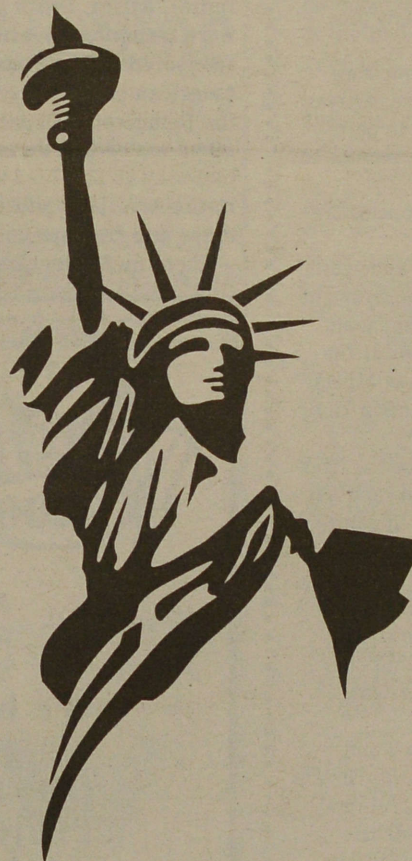
### Affiliate Training Courses

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- Campus Organizing
- Candidate Recruitment
- Blogging 101
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**Classes will begin in late March.**

**The LLS is open to all members of the Libertarian Party.**

**Courses will last a minimum of six weeks**

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**To enroll in the LLS or for more information, e-mail [lls@lp.org](mailto:lls@lp.org).**

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



## THE REVIEW

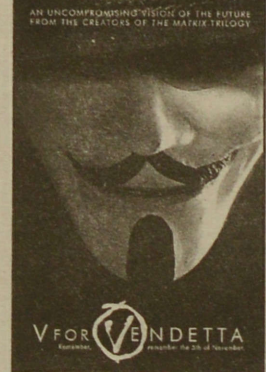
# Movie: 'V for Vendetta'

Reviewed by J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR

The question has been asked, Is "V for Vendetta" a libertarian movie? (For other people's opinions, see the responses to the March 16-17 blog entries on the subject at [LP.org](http://LP.org).)

Yes, there are certainly libertarian themes in this filmic rendition of a graphic novel written in the 1980s. Any piece of fiction that features a one-man tirade against an oppressive government cannot be utterly devoid of libertarian thought.



But as surely as many libertarians will enjoy "Vendetta," others will reject major elements of the story, saying the main character is too strongly bent on destruction to be considered libertarian. The hero — the titular V — is a rebel who wears a Guy Fawkes mask and who believes he can spark a revolution in near-future England by blowing up Parliament, thus completing the task the original Fawkes failed to accomplish back in the 17th Century.

In the movie (I haven't read the book and cannot comment as to the movie's adherence to the original), England is under

the control of a fascist government led by one Chancellor Sutler.

The chancellor took power in England after "America's war grew worse and worse, and eventually came to London," according to a journal found in a prison cell. The government cracked down on all who didn't adequately fit into its ideal society, persecuting homosexuals, immigrants, and Muslims — as well as anyone who simply protested against the growing power of the government.

Under the new government, telephone calls and electronic messages are monitored (sound familiar?), there are surveillance cameras everywhere (more familiarity?), and the police are allowed to persecute, kidnap and interrogate suspected dissidents without recourse to the courts.

It's impossible to watch this film and not come to the conclusion that the depicted government is a reflection of our own.

And that's where the problematic material arises: V has understandably become weary of seeing his country destroyed by its government and has decided to take action. He considers himself the "equal and opposite reaction" expected to any action in the natural world: The government acted violently toward himself and multitudes of others. And as part of the equation, he has no choice but to respond in kind.

"Violence can be used for good," he says.

Language like that is bound to perturb those who believe the libertarian prohibition against the initiation of force means that no libertarian should take up arms against his or her government. Of course, it would cause no such qualms for this nation's founders, who obviously believed that an armed response is appropriate when provoked.

In many ways V is like the Phantom of the Opera (he lives in a sumptuous subterranean lair, commits mayhem on his opponents, wears a mask and takes a beautiful young woman as unwilling protégé) and as with that phantom, the audience is often uncertain whether to sympathize or to be appalled.

Chancellor Sutler and other governmental types refer to V and those like him as "terrorists," telling the people that the terrorists are an enemy that "seeks to divide us," so the citizens must remain unified under the government, determined to oppose the dissidents.

As the saying goes, one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. The question is, which is V? After all, he plots to use a massive fertilizer bomb to destroy government buildings, drawing an uncomfortable comparison to Timothy McVeigh.

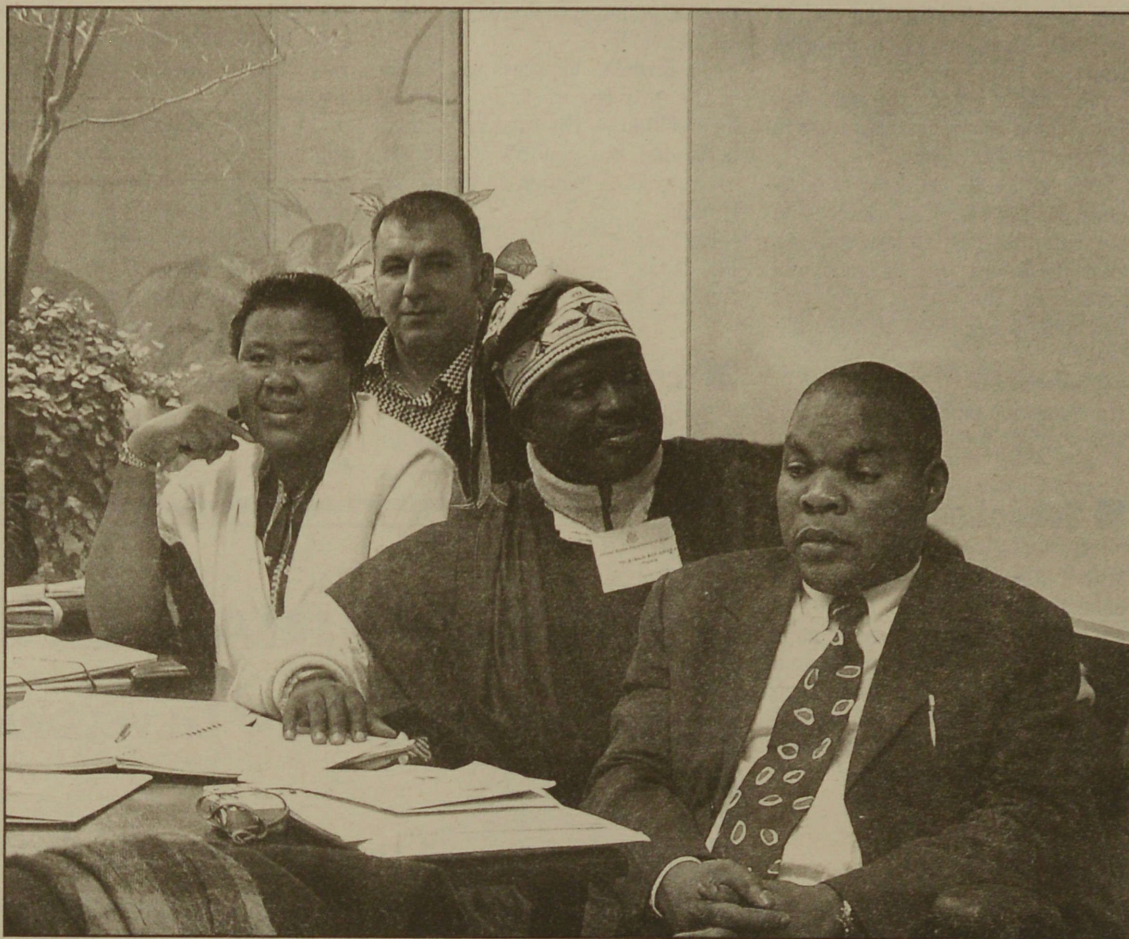
The depicted government has murdered tens of thousands and is systematically committing psychological murder on the rest of the English people. Does V, then, have a right to retaliate? The moviemakers leave us to assume he does, but there is tremendous moral ambiguity in their hero's treatment of both his enemies and his friends. In the interests of not spoiling the movie, that's all I'll say.

But if there's one thing libertarianism is not, it's morally ambiguous.

In the end, I would say "V for Vendetta" certainly has libertarian themes, primarily in its celebration of opposition to an oppressive government. And the film is certain to encourage any thoughtful viewer to contemplate how far we have traveled on the path to complete government control. But I wouldn't go further than that.

If you haven't already done so, watch this movie.

As V tells the young woman with whom he has a conflicted relationship, "I promise you it will be like nothing you've ever seen, and afterwards you'll return home safely."



■ The national headquarters of the Libertarian Party recently hosted a visit with more than 20 foreign dignitaries, visitors to the United States from various countries in Asia (including Taiwan and India), Africa, South America and Europe. Some of them were government representatives, while others were from non-governmental or para-governmental organizations, such as political parties. The visit, sponsored by the State Department, was part of a tour that enabled the group to gain insight into the American political system by visiting some of the various political parties. They also spent time with the Democratic, Republican and Green parties. While visiting the Libertarian Party's offices, they asked many questions on topics ranging from campaign finance to ballot access. Here they are shown listening to LP Chief of Staff Shane Cory, who spoke to them about the important role third parties play in the American political scene. The LP gets several such visits per year, both from dignitaries such as these and from groups of political science students attending nearby universities.

—Photo by LP Development Associate Sara Neugroschel



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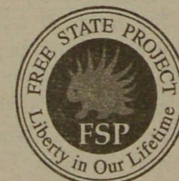
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For more information on the Free State Project  
see [www.freestateproject.org](http://www.freestateproject.org)





# National LP avoids FEC fines

A longstanding dispute between the national Libertarian Party and the Federal Election Commission has been resolved, LP Treasurer Mark Nelson reported at the Libertarian National Committee meeting in Charlotte, N.C., on March 11-12.

"We managed to get through the alternative dispute resolution without paying a fine, which is just astounding," Nelson told the other members of the LNC.

M Carling, an LNC representative from California, pointed out that the American Reform Party was fined over \$300,000 a couple of years ago.

It is impossible to guess what fines could have been levied against the Libertarian Party — but "no fine is certainly preferable" to a fine of any amount, he noted.

The problem leading to the dispute was "a series of amendments to financial statements that made a large difference to a report filed in early 2003," Nelson said. "This process started out in June of 2005, and we reached a resolution in January.

"I believe, in retrospect, it was due to an inexperienced staff dealing with the technical requirements of software and bureaucracy, in a relatively complicated filing process.

"These were substantive changes that altered all major lines on the form, and the FEC referred the report to their general counsel, asking us to enter into an alternative dispute resolution."

The LP is required to file a report

electronically with the FEC each month, unlike state reporting affiliates, who can file once per quarter or even once a year.

Fortunately for the LP, "we acknowledged there were problems before the FEC contacted us, and we were working with a consultant trying to resolve the problem and to change ongoing processes," Nelson added. "That consultant referred us to an outside counsel, Craig Engle, who represented us in our dispute resolution."

Attorney Bill Hall does most of the national Libertarian Party's legal work, but the choice of a different attorney to represent the LP in this dispute was no slight to him.

"Bill Hall is very well aware of the regulations, but I felt we needed someone who routinely works with the FEC, because the negotiations would be done on a D.C. basis," Nelson said. "Besides that, Hall is very busy — and Engle used to work for the FEC. So we got an insider with a level of expertise and knowledge of the system that was well worth our time."

In addition, the LP has (for some time now) been contracting with a professional to do the FEC reports.

"We are now using a vendor, Paula Edwards, since the summer of 2005," Nelson said. "She helped us correct our problems. We're also going to be developing filing protocols and procedures, and I hope that we'll be able to take the filing back in-house sometime this year."

Of primary importance in this

situation, other than the fact that the reports are now being done correctly, is the fact that "we resolved it without a fine," Nelson concluded. "That's a very big deal, since this kind of dispute usually results in a fine.

"We were able to show the FEC that we understood there was a problem, and we were taking steps to correct it before they approached us. It is particularly important to me that we didn't get fined, because I don't want to see our donors' money going to FEC fines.

"When we're asking for donations, it's important to me to know that the donors' money is being used for political purposes, not for fines and penalties. I am very pleased that by investing in outside expertise, we were able to get through this without being fined."

## LP News

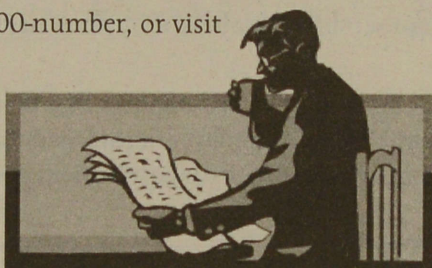
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## THE PROFILE

# Comic Tim Wilson

By Bill Winter

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT

It's a rare comedian who cites as influences both folksy southern funnyman Jerry Clower and the envelope-pushing Richard Pryor. Or who opens shows for both country legend Reba McEntire and rock-n-rollers Cheap Trick. Or who writes funny songs about both Hillary Clinton and Garth Brooks.

Tim Wilson is that rare comedian. He's a Southern-born libertarian joker with an appreciation for both country music and soul music — and a passionate dislike for the Clinton family. He's appeared on "The Tonight Show" with Jay Leno, released more than a dozen comedy albums, and co-wrote a hit single with Jeff Foxworthy.

Let's start with his politics. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (Nov. 9, 2002) quoted Wilson as saying, "If I ever voted for a Democrat, I'd slit my wrists and bleed in a cup. I'm not really a Republican. I'm a libertarian."

Wilson's libertarianism crops up in random places. In a comedy bit he calls "2nd Amendment" (2001), he says: "The Second Amendment of the United States Constitution has to stay. If you do not have guns, you do not have freedom."

In an interview with County Music Television (Sept. 14, 1999), he explained the rationale behind his song, "It Takes a Village to Raise a Nut."

Disagreeing with Hillary Clinton's notion that "society" is responsible for everything, Wilson said, "I was brought up by a father who was very strict and taught me to be responsible for myself. Why can't everyone just be responsible for themselves instead of blaming everyone else?" If this seems like a serious comment for a comedian, Wilson adds, "When it comes to politics, I'm very opinionated."

Actually, Wilson is opinionated about everything. Born in Georgia, he grew up listening to genteel Southern comedian Jerry Clower and the urban, edgy Richard Pryor. After graduating from college with an English degree, Wilson started doing stand-up comedy in the Atlanta area in 1983. As his popularity grew, he toured around the country, opening for musical acts including Reba McEntire, the Beach Boys, and Cheap Trick.

Wilson's performances combine caustic observations, funny stories, and humorous songs that he sings in a baritone drawl. Fan favorites include "The Jeff Gordon Song," "Garth Brooks Ruined My Life," "The Ballad of John Rucker," "Hillbilly Homeboy," and "In God and Alan Greenspan We Trust." He also co-wrote Jeff Foxworthy's hit single, "The Redneck Twelve Days of Christmas."

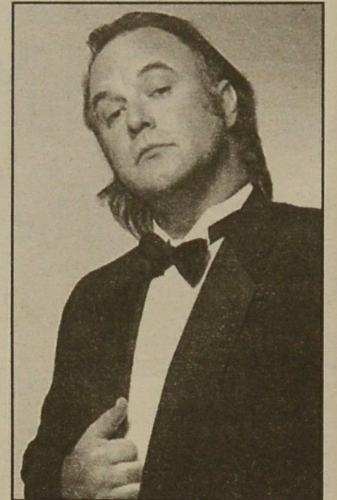
In addition to "The Tonight Show," Wilson has appeared on "Evening at the Improv," "Grace Under Fire," and TNN's "Prime Time Country." His albums include "Waking Up the Neighborhood" (1994), "Tough Crowd" (1995), "Low-Class Love Affair" (1996), "Gettin My Mind Right" (1999), "It's a Sorry World" (1999), "Hillbilly Homeboy" (2000), "I Should've Married My Father In Law" (2001), "The Real Twang Thang" (2005), and "Church League Softball Fistfight" (2005). His funky 2003 album, "Super Bad Sounds of the 70's," is an off-kilter tribute to 70's-era soul musicians like Barry White and Isaac Hayes.

Wilson has been praised as "a born funnyman" by [CMT.com](http://CMT.com) and as "one of the funniest comedians on the circuit" by [CountryStandard-Time.com](http://CountryStandard-Time.com). The *Beat* newspaper (Greenville, South Carolina), wrote, "Wilson is not just another hillbilly comedian, but he sure is funny."

Not everyone is quite so impressed. William Ruhlmann, writing in the *All Music Guide*, called Wilson "racist, sexist, xenophobic and reactionary" and said he's "on the more offensive side of the current school of Southern comedy."

But don't expect such comments to change the blunt-spoken comedian. As Wilson explained to County Music Television, "I just tell things the way I see them."

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





# 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 or visit our Web site at [www.lpconvention.org](http://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.)

## ❖ Delegate Package — \$89

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

**Yes, I plan to attend the 2006 Convention in Portland!**

**Please reserve my seat!**

- I wish to reserve: ☐ The Gold Package at \$359  
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■ 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]

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# The Fair Tax isn't perfect, but it's better than what we have

No tax is fair. But what we have today, in the good old USA, is the worst — an unfair, complicated and unconstitutional way for the government to plunder our money.

Our money is taken from us by a constitutional amendment that was never ratified.

But that is another story.

To understand the Fair Tax, it would be best to read the book that has really got the movement started, *The Fair Tax Book*, by Neil Boortz and John Linder.

The Fair Tax plan is a comprehensive proposal that would replace all federal income and payroll taxes with an integrated approach including a progressive national retail sales tax, a rebate to ensure no American pays federal taxes on spending up to the poverty level, dollar-for-dollar revenue neutrality and the repeal of the 16<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

Let us examine what the Fair Tax would do for the American people:

1. The Fair Tax would strip away hidden federal income taxes and compliance costs and make U. S. goods more competitive overseas and more affordable at home, thereby increasing job creation while reducing our balance of payments deficit.

2. The Fair Tax would eliminate the majority of current federal taxes, including the individual income tax, alternative minimum tax, capital gains tax, self-employment tax, and estate and gift taxes. What you earn is what you get, except what your state takes.

3. The Fair Tax would eliminate Social Security payroll tax deductions.

4. The Fair Tax would eliminate all corporate income and employer payroll taxes and their associated compliance costs, currently hidden in both producer and retail prices.

5. The Fair Tax would lower effective tax rates for lower and middle income families.

6. The Fair Tax would free up time wasted on filling out cumbersome and inscrutable IRS forms.

7. The Fair Tax would raise the same amount of revenue for the federal government (revenue neutral) as the taxes it replaces.

8. The Fair Tax would abolish the IRS!

Today, the federal tax code, rules and IRS rulings exceed 60,000 pages, having tripled since the 1970's.

It is estimated that individuals, businesses and non-profits spend six billion hours per year complying with the federal income code, at an estimated cost of over \$265 billion.

The Fair Tax's proposed 23 percent consumption tax (national retail sale tax) will be on all new goods and services. Used goods — including furniture, cars, homes, clothing and other items — would not be subject to the tax.

The Fair Tax would also help eliminate the shadow economy that accounts for an estimated 10 percent of this nation's GDP.

According to the IRS, \$345 billion in taxes is owed, but not paid, each year. The shadow economy includes all cash dealings made by drug dealers, gangsters, and other criminals. It is estimated that \$1 trillion is laundered offshore annually.

The Fair Tax is not what the LP really wants. But it is far better than what we have now.

The Fair Tax is a start to a more "fair" system of taxation. I believe that after the Fair Tax has been in place for a few years, the 23 percent federal sales tax could be reduced gradually over time, along with the cutting back of the federal government.

The Fair Tax would make the true cost of government visible to the people, who would then be able to decide how much government they are willing to pay for.

Most of our elected officials,

from the White House down, do not want the Fair Tax because it would take a lot of power and control away from the federal government and puts the power and control into the hands of the consumer.

If Americans continue to sit back and do nothing, we are allowing the IRS and the government to rule our lives and use our money. We must speak out, making it known that we want a better system.

We must work together to end the income tax as we know it. Insti-

tuting the Fair Tax would be a step in the right direction.

■ **About the author:** Richard C. Evey lives in Havelock, North Carolina. He helped organize the LP in that state's Craven County, and ran for North Carolina Senate in 2004.

[**Editor's note:** The national LP has not endorsed the Fair Tax. Care to comment? The best 600-word response to this column will be printed in an upcoming edition of LP News.]

Do. Or do not. There is no try.  
-Yoda "The Empire Strikes Back"

The character is fictitious. The wisdom is real and profound. The lesson to be learned can help us change the future.

Star Wars was a movie filled with symbolism. The bad guy was huge, powerful, and dressed in black. The hero was idealistic, defiant, and dressed in white. A wise master appears unexpectedly to guide the hero. Even though the situation seemed hopeless, and the odds were overwhelming, the hero and his supporters refused to give up.

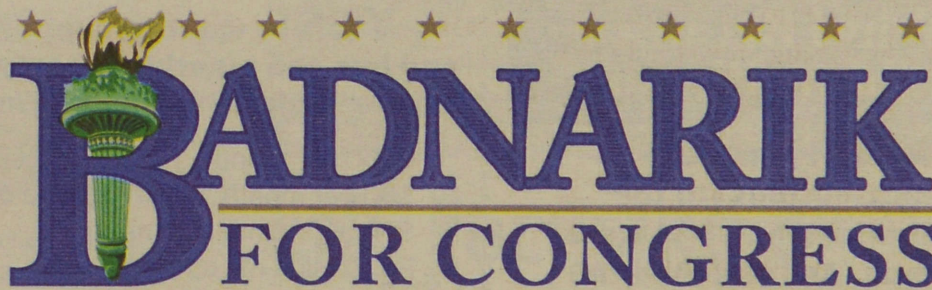
Like Luke Skywalker, I am brave, and stubbornly determined to win. My campaign manager is Allen Hacker. Like Obi-Wan Kenobi, he is wise and knows our opposition's weaknesses.

We have already raised over \$150,000 for this campaign, but we need more. I'm asking you to join the *Rebel Alliance* by donating to my campaign. The difference between victory and defeat is in your hands! Will you contribute? Or contribute not?

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Allen Hacker, Campaign Manager and Treasurer



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When you join the Liberty Pledge Program, you will also

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As an LP member or *LP News* subscriber, you've already taken the first step to protect America's precious heritage of Liberty.

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Now, would you be willing to take the *next* step — and become a member of the Liberty Pledge Team?

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You can also join by mail, using the easy response form below, or send e-mail to [Pledge@LP.org](mailto:Pledge@LP.org). Thank you.

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**"My early financial contributions [to the Libertarian Party] were small. As I watched the party face challenges and opportunities, I realized that for us to deal with these effectively, we needed a stable, dependable base of financial support. We must donate to what we love."**

— **George Whitfield**  
(Executive search consultant)  
Seoul, South Korea

☐ **YES!** I want to support the Libertarian Party on a more regular basis — and join the monthly Liberty Pledge in the amount indicated below. Please send me the insider's newsletter, *The Liberty Pledge News*, each month.

- ☐ \$100 per month..... Life Benefactor  
☐ \$30 per month ..... A dollar a day for liberty!  
☐ \$10 per month (minimum) ..... Sustaining  
☐ Please sign me up for \$\_\_\_\_\_ per month  
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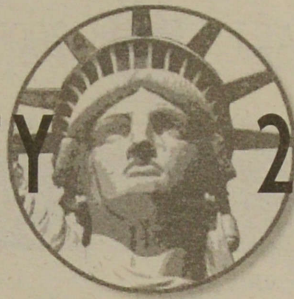
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# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT



*A report on the party's goals, accomplishments, shortcomings, and finances in 2005*

## ★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

### Dixon: 'We changed everything this year'

Annual reports traditionally give a business or other organization a chance to take stock of the past and to plan for the future.

Many, if not most, of the readers of this column have greater concerns in their life than the daily plans and actions of the Libertarian Party, its national committee and headquarters. And in a year as overwhelmed with change as 2005, even those paying close attention may have overlooked some of what I consider the high points.

Simply put, we changed everything this year.

We chose to change our funding mechanism by lowering our membership dues to zero. This was done in order to wrench — and I mean that in every sense of the word

— the organization in a new and innovative direction. That direction is electoral politics, just as our Mission Statement articulates.

In taking this bold action, the members of the Libertarian National Committee hoped that, by freeing the organization of the superstructure of dues, renewals, and the mindset of a membership-driven constituency, we could finally place our highest priorities upon electoral activity.

This new orientation and direction calls upon the national Libertarian Party to become more focused on candidates and elections, and to be an improved resource for our local activists.

To do this the national staff created the Libertarian Leadership School — a new online university

of sorts, designed to offer training in the best practices of the political craft.

Courses have been being held since the first of the year and another session is about to begin. If you haven't checked out the course work, do so. If you notice that a beneficial area of study is missing, consider offering to teach such a course, or refer us to an expert in a new field so that all of our members can take advantage of the best and the brightest minds that we can assemble.

In addition to "virtual training," the national office is committed to in-person education and skill building as well.

To do this, we provided a half-day seminar in FEC filing and compliance at the recent Libertarian State Leadership

Alliance meeting in Phoenix. This training will be augmented by more such classes in the days surrounding the 2006 National LP Convention in Portland, Ore.

Speaking of Portland, our biennial gathering is a chance to re-energize when we meet and reconnect with activists from around the nation. Specifically, this year's event is going to be politically focused, as we indicate in the convention's theme: Uniting Voters.

Why did we choose Uniting Voters, instead of a more typically motivational theme?

Simple: The Republicans and the Democrats continue to offer the same old tired solutions for our political needs. The voters, except the most extreme, are being forgotten by both of these wings of the politi-

cal spectrum. We have the answers, but we have not communicated, or sold them, to enough of the voters.

It's time that our efforts were spent determining the best way to do this, instead of reconfirming the correctness of our own ideas. By naming our convention in this way, we are sending a signal — both to ourselves and to the world at large — that we understand that winning elections starts with connecting with and uniting voters.

I've talked about what we are doing to make 2006 a great year. But what I really want to ask is what you can do to help us. I have two requests.

First, join us in Portland.

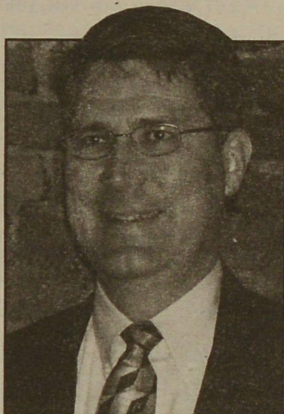
Nothing boosts my energy like a national convention gathering. And this one is shaping up to be a great event. You can register for the event and for hotel accommodations on the national Web site, [LP.org](http://LP.org). But if you want to be a delegate at the convention, and be able to vote on the platform and party officers, you must also contact your state organization and request that they credential you.

Second, I would ask each of you to take political action in your community.

After you have registered for the 2006 LP convention, look around your community for the campaign or candidate for 2006 who needs your help.

Have you volunteered for a campaign, or helped out in an initiative process? If time is a premium in your world, as it has been in mine lately, maybe a contribution to a local campaign would be a better action for you.

We want 2006 to be a year of increased political activity by the Libertarian Party, and that goal requires that each member of the LP be involved, either through personal activity or through helping to fund the political activities of others.



■ MICHAEL DIXON  
LP CHAIR



## LP State-by-State Membership Numbers

Libertarian Party membership as of Dec. 31, 2005. This chart includes both card-carrying members and "subscribers" — those who contributed to the party in 2005 but who have not become full members by signing the pledge.

Alabama	187	Montana	53
Alaska	100	Nebraska	64
Arizona	359	Nevada	225
Arkansas	82	New Hampshire	200
California	2,828	New Jersey	432
Colorado	504	New Mexico	152
Connecticut	216	New York	635
Delaware	56	North Carolina	420
D.C.	53	North Dakota	17
Florida	1,058	Ohio	644
Georgia	753	Oklahoma	106
Hawaii	69	Oregon	318
Idaho	73	Pennsylvania	756
Illinois	576	Rhode Island	32
Indiana	454	South Carolina	167
Iowa	153	South Dakota	29
Kansas	165	Tennessee	277
Kentucky	115	Texas	1,029
Louisiana	121	Utah	102
Maine	91	Vermont	63
Maryland	374	Virginia	658
Massachusetts	386	Washington	564
Michigan	667	West Virginia	64
Minnesota	272	Wisconsin	241
Mississippi	62	Wyoming	39
Missouri	280	Other:	72

Total Libertarian Party Members/Subscribers: 17,413  
Total Number of Members [Signed Certificates]: 98,658

## ★ LP TREASURER'S REPORT

### LNC focusing on stabilizing expenses

The year following a presidential election is usually difficult for the Libertarian Party. Toss in the dampening effects of the hurricane relief efforts, and 2005 was a bad environment for all fund raising.

The revenue decreases in 2005 occurred in the irregular, project-based activities, such as ballot access. Your donations to the core income lines dropped only modestly, showing your continued strong sup-

port for the LP's basic activities.

An application problem in the new fund-raising software created a drop in pledge revenue throughout the first half of 2005. This was corrected, and the pledge revenue has started to increase.

On the expense side, the LNC continued to focus on stabilizing costs, making more effective use of your donations.

Our largest expense, staff costs, See **MAKING** Page 14



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

## ★ LP TREASURER'S REPORT

### Making better use of donations to the LP

*Continued from Page 13*

continued to be lowered. This was done partially through outsourcing, resulting in an increase in the professional services expense.

Further, fund-raising expenses have been fine tuned, lowering expenses more than 10 percent, while increasing the return.

Affiliate support (the Unified Membership Program — UMP), continued to be the second largest expense for the LNC.

The conversion to \$0 dues ended the UMP program in September 2005. The final payout of UMP contracts will end in September 2006. The removal of this major expense should provide the LNC more financial stability.

The rent expense continued to drop, as we gave up some leased storage space. In February 2006, we were able to cheaply move from the lower level in the Watergate building to the second floor, with little disruption. Occupancy costs were lowered by taking a smaller space, while the efficiency of the office should improve in the better-configured, more functional space.

With less of your donations going to rent, more will be available to promote Libertarian candidates.

The largest expense increase in 2005 was in the *LP News* printing and postage. Outsourcing the *LP News* to cut costs was investigated. However, outside vendors were not able to demonstrate that they could increase advertising revenue or decrease costs over our current arrangements.

We will continue to investigate means to control these costs.

Driven by the Bi-Partisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), the LP's material sales were outsourced to a primary printing vendor. This should be a successful relationship, providing a broader range of offerings and a steady supply of the most popular materials to activists and campaigns.

After changes in 2004, no internal accounting changes were made in 2005.

The modest increase in the national LP's net worth was due to the

re-allocation of deferred revenue from a liability to membership revenue.

The modest net income in 2005 operations was also due to a decrease in the deferred revenue liability being allocated to membership revenue. The actual cash deficit in 2005 was more than \$80,000. This resulted in higher accounts payable — and no cash reserve — at the end of 2005.

The Libertarian National Committee's continued inability to sustain a reasonable reserve leaves us susceptible to downturns, such as the decrease in donations that followed the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the 2005 hurricane relief efforts.

The LNC needs to create cash reserves so our work isn't interrupted by short-term cash flow variances. Please join me in asking the LNC to develop the discipline to set aside a prudent cash reserve.

A primary financial challenge for 2006 will be breaking even on the national convention. The non-presidential convention in Indianapolis in 2002 lost more than \$150,000, and the repercussions of this loss continued through the 2004 presidential campaign.

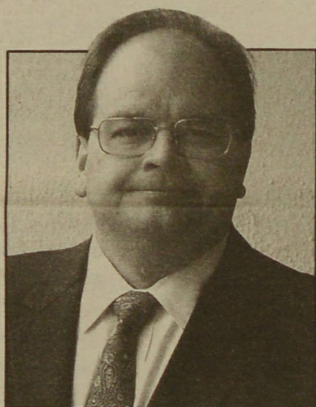
The national convention is by far the most exciting event for Libertarians. The 2006 convention has been pared back to a two-day event, to be held in Portland, Ore., on July 1-2. The shortened format will lower hotel costs so more members can attend, making the convention a successful event.

In 2005, the Libertarian Party continued to make better use of your donations by reducing core expenses.

However, the opportunities to continue reducing expenses are diminishing.

To effectively advance our shared political vision, the LNC must increase its core cash flow. This is best done through building the pledge program.

I encourage all donors to become monthly credit card pledgers. The sustaining support of pledgers is essential to our success at advancing your political agenda.



**MARK NELSON**  
LP TREASURER



## 2001-2005 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

DATE	12/31/01	12/31/02	12/31/03	12/31/04	12/31/05
Assets	\$679,165	\$502,611	\$358,841	\$81,992	\$26,624
Liabilities	\$496,133	\$616,186	\$299,702	\$504,607	\$403,462
Net Worth	\$183,032	(\$113,574)	\$59,139	(\$422,685)	(\$379,838)
Change	(\$67,146)	(\$296,606)	\$172,713	(\$481,824)	\$42,847



## 2001-2005 Revenue & Expense Summary

LNC Revenue	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>Revenue: HQ Fundraising</b>					
Direct Mail - House List	\$498,331	\$359,607	\$335,847	\$480,760	\$545,473
Pledge Program	\$479,545	\$435,217	\$419,748	\$351,889	\$307,715
Membership	\$484,985	\$384,990	\$550,471	\$473,444	\$344,043
Major Donors	\$74,665	\$141,900	\$195,954	\$2,570	\$82,825
Telephone Fundraising	\$83,347	\$49,912	\$—	\$—	\$—
Email/Web Fundraising	\$139,207	\$169,098	\$—	\$—	\$—
Other	\$—	\$—	\$128,318	\$—	\$—
<b>Subtotal:</b>	<b>\$1,760,080</b>	<b>\$1,540,724</b>	<b>\$1,630,338</b>	<b>\$1,308,662</b>	<b>\$1,280,056</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>					
Convention Registration Fees	\$—	\$145,387	\$897	\$178,017	\$—
Convention Fundraising	\$—	\$28,930	\$—	\$35,992	\$—
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$116,664	\$41,255	\$—	\$80,638	\$74,242
Web site	\$82,125	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—
List Rental	\$39,559	\$36,583	\$12,075	\$16,099	\$10,406
<i>LP News</i>	\$65,415	\$65,003	\$29,865	\$43,578	\$56,714
Material Sales	\$44,953	\$58,435	\$41,402	\$44,105	\$11,896
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$126,974	\$—	\$—	\$—
Ballot Access	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$228,291	\$36,228
Projects	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$192,230	\$4,620
Libertarian Leadership School	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$13,733
Other	\$—	\$—	\$9	\$169	\$—
<b>Subtotal Other Revenue:</b>	<b>\$348,716</b>	<b>\$502,567</b>	<b>\$84,248</b>	<b>\$819,118</b>	<b>\$207,840</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,108,796</b>	<b>\$2,043,291</b>	<b>\$1,714,586</b>	<b>\$2,127,781</b>	<b>\$1,487,896</b>
<b>LNC Expenses</b>					
Paid Staff	\$577,805	\$564,514	\$474,246	\$506,407	\$430,187
Affiliate Support	\$487,149	\$384,911	\$305,174	\$298,518	\$278,145
Ballot Access (LP & Candidates)	\$100,101	\$134,367	\$8,084	\$270,398	\$6,678
HQ Fundraising Expenses	\$240,991	\$310,532	\$286,302	\$195,639	\$172,772
Convention Organizing	\$10,562	\$310,532	\$—	\$193,578	\$12,389
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$177,325	\$16,095	\$—	\$80,470	\$116,990
Candidate Support	\$27,113	\$—	\$—	\$64,162	\$—
<i>LP News</i>	\$135,491	\$108,177	\$—	\$54,948	\$79,012
General Office	\$122,498	\$176,090	\$58,712	\$78,352	\$86,075
Professional Services	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$36,753	\$69,913
Software & Equipment	\$33,360	\$26,084	\$34,575	\$128,566	\$15,653
Rent & Utilities	\$92,197	\$97,242	\$118,320	\$116,460	\$107,519
Other Campaign Support	\$4,864	\$—	\$1,500	\$17,112	\$—
Material Sales	\$29,708	\$50,758	\$14,733	\$30,217	\$10,520
Website/Internet	\$16,514	\$14,730	\$11,762	\$38,663	\$35,404
Governance (LNC)	\$123,520	\$59,001	\$69,905	\$17,022	\$14,250
Media Relations	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$7,904
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$—	\$130,720	\$—	\$—	\$—
Branding & Marketing	\$—	\$44,509	\$—	\$—	\$—
Libertarian Leadership School	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$—	\$4,171
Depreciation	\$—	\$—	\$43,200	\$93,340	\$—
Interest Expense	\$—	\$—	\$605	\$—	\$—
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$2,179,198</b>	<b>\$2,428,262</b>	<b>\$1,427,118</b>	<b>\$2,220,604</b>	<b>\$1,447,582</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>(\$70,402)</b>	<b>(\$384,971)</b>	<b>\$287,468</b>	<b>(\$92,823)</b>	<b>\$40,314</b>



# LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2005 ANNUAL REPORT

## ★ FROM LP HEADQUARTERS

# 2005: A year of change for the Libertarian Party

**T**his was a year that underscored America's need for the Libertarian Party. It was a year in which our government blatantly ignored the Constitution, spied on its own citizens, created a national ID card program and seized private land for corporate use.

Adding to these abuses, 2005 was a year in which corruption and scandals among elected officials became commonplace.

Americans across the nation were able to see first-hand the ineptitude of government after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Many months later, this fact has been compounded by broken promises and mismanagement.

As a whole, 2005 represented the failure of our U.S. government.

And as Americans have come to the realization that neither major party works in their interest, they are now searching for answers and a political party that serves to protect the interests of the people. The Libertarian Party is that party.

Throughout the past year, we have worked to put into place the tools we need to accomplish our mission — putting Libertarians into office by winning elections.

For the LP, it was a year of swift transition and progress. Let's start with the most talked-about LP story of the year — Zero Dues.

### Zero Dues

At its August meeting, the Libertarian National Committee voted to reduce annual membership dues from \$25 per year to \$0.

Zero Dues serves as an open invitation to all Americans to join the Libertarian Party with no mandatory financial obligation. However, this was not the only reason for the change.

By reducing dues to \$0, we can now focus heavily on our core mission — electing Libertarians — rather than "chasing" membership numbers. In the past, significant weight was placed on the LP's membership numbers, and members of HQ staff dedicated much of their time to pursuing new members and renewing lapsed memberships.

In passing Zero Dues, the LNC recognized that membership numbers don't win elections. Hard work, smart planning and unwavering commitment are the most effective elements during campaign season. In passing this significant change, the LNC made this clear.

### Libertarian Leadership School

As part of the Zero Dues resolution, the LP staff was instructed to create training programs that will assist our state affiliates and many

others in winning elections — and the Libertarian Leadership School was born.

We weighed several options for affiliate training programs. Seemingly, the best solution was to create an online university that would offer comprehensive courses to Libertarians across the nation, from anywhere, at any time.

Creating an online university was a major project with major costs. This meant a great deal of technical work, but it also meant finding instructors and creating course content that could be delivered to thousands of Libertarians each year.

Our professionals at headquarters explored partnering with other online universities and even met with some of the nation's top political consultants to achieve their goal.

After a month of searching, we were left with a quote of over \$200,000 to create the training program that would take six months to implement.

That proposal was prohibitive in terms of both time and cost, so we set out to make it happen on our own. Within three months, the Libertarian Leadership School (LLS) was created and ready for launch.

The LLS was launched on Jan. 2, 2006, with 11 initial courses that give us the ability to train more than 2,000 Libertarians each year!

Amazingly, we were able to create the LLS with zero dollars in expenditures. But keeping the school running will involve significant costs such as instructor fees, maintenance and administration. We also plan to expand course offerings in the future in order to deliver some of the best and most unique courses that will help us achieve victory in 2006 and beyond.

### Hurricane Katrina Relief

In the midst of all of this transition, Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans.

Within days, it became evident that FEMA, the organization that local communities and individuals had relied so heavily upon during disasters, was a failure. So we sought to directly help those affected by one of our nation's worst natural disasters. We put out a call to any Libertarians affected by Katrina to contact us. Within hours, we found an entire community that needed our help: Franklin, Louisiana.

As Katrina hit New Orleans, the residents of Franklin met to begin organizing relief efforts for the expected flood of evacuees. Knowing the overbearing bureaucracy of FEMA, the community leaders of Franklin banned FEMA from operating in their town. Through one of

our Louisiana members, Franklin was brought to our attention.

We were given a specific list of needs and immediately put out a call to our own members who responded with their own direct aid.

While many Libertarians across the nation sent in goods and financial support, several traveled directly to Franklin — and on to New Orleans — to offer on-site support.

The efforts of Libertarians to help a small Louisiana town underscored the libertarian way: Individuals, working together without government interference, can face any challenge presented.

### Iraq Exit Strategy

In March 2003, the United States, under the leadership of the Republican Bush administration, invaded Iraq based upon the claim that the nation was a "gathering threat" due to their possession of vast stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction.

We now know that there were no such stockpiles. But instead of coming up with a plan to remove our troops from the region after admitting that Iraq possessed no WMDs, the Republican administration (emboldened by spineless Democrats) chose to continue the occupation of Iraq, with no plan for ending the bloodshed.

In June 2005 we sought to offer the American people an alternative to the "stay the course" message that was being shouted by Bush and his media cronies.

After a month of research and consultation with experts, we released the LP's "Iraq Exit Strategy — America's Path Forward." The document was a comprehensive plan for withdrawing our troops from Iraqi soil while empowering the Iraqi people to rule themselves.

While our plan was not without controversy, it offered hope to more than 2,600 Americans who chose to sign and support the strategy.

Here are some of the comments that these individuals added when signing:

■ I may not agree with everything

in the Libertarian Party's platform, but at least they have a plan for getting our country back on track and (most importantly) a conscience. I am now a Libertarian. — Thomas Crow, Brookville, Maryland

■ As a soldier who has done a year deployment, I agree with your plan. It's time to step back and let Iraq take its course. — David Hohman, Tucson, Arizona

■ It's good to hear a party actually taking a pragmatic approach to matters. Before reading your exit strategy document, I had planned to leave the Republican Party and rejoin the Libertarians. After reading it, I'm even more excited about my decision. Kudos, folks! — Chet Jack, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

■ What a well-thought-out plan. This just validates why I have been a supporter of the Libertarian Party for the past 15 years! — Ron Depner

The Iraq Exit Strategy served as a message to the American people that an alternative to the two-party system does exist.

There is hope and, in time, we can regain our nation through principled governance.

### Improved Communication

While we were able to hear from thousands of Americans through our plan for Iraq, we also expanded efforts to improve communication with our members and supporters.

In April 2005, we unveiled a new design and features for our Web site, [LP.org](http://LP.org). One of the most significant editions was the creation of our official blog (Web log) that allowed visitors to express their thoughts and opinions through comments on articles posted daily to the site.

Throughout the year we've included more interactive features such as a daily poll, conducted online surveys, created an online encyclopedia of all things related to the LP and, most recently, started weekly chats that allow our LNC members to communicate with Libertarians across the nation.

In 2006, we will continue these efforts and explore new methods of

interactivity.

While we have been busy listening and communicating with Libertarians, we've also taken steps to strengthen our alliances and build new relationships with other like-minded organizations.

Now, what do we have planned for 2006? For starters, there's the national convention, to be held in Portland, Ore., on July 1-2.

We are also going to focus on our candidates by launching a new, innovative Web site which focuses strongly on campaigns.

We plan to keep our members informed of campaigns and candidates on the local, state and national levels through our new project, the Candidate Tracker. Libertarians will not only be able to easily identify important races, they will also be able to track races throughout the campaign season.

We are going to continue down the path of progress with the Libertarian Leadership School, offering more courses to improve our overall effectiveness at the polls.

And lastly, we are going to create what could be the most effective tool our party has ever seen — the LP Voter ID Database.

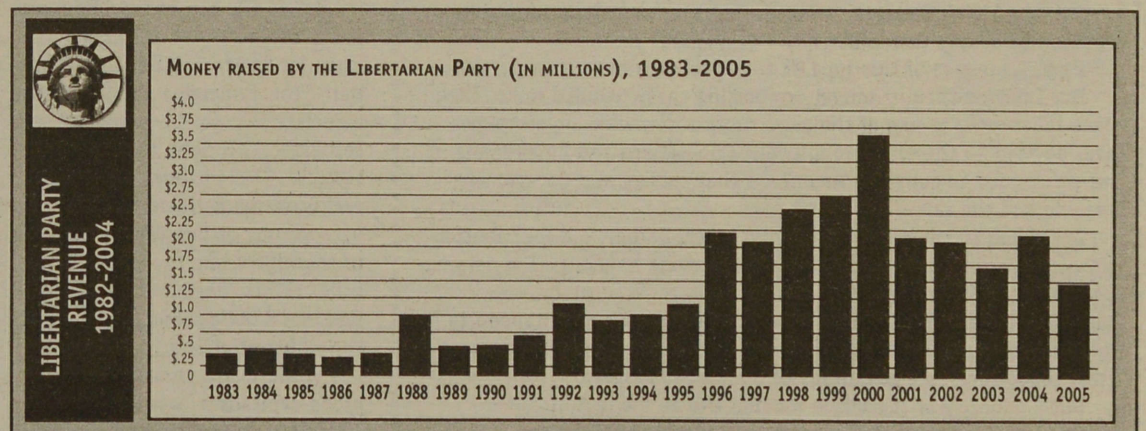
A new database may not sound exciting, but how does identifying likely Libertarian voters sound? With this project, we can work year-round to find likely voters.

When campaign season comes around, our candidates will have the advantage of getting face-to-face with people who are likely to vote them into office.

This program will streamline our Get Out The Vote efforts and give our candidates a huge advantage in their campaigns.

But in order to be effective in all these attempts, we must have continued support from members and former contributors to the Libertarian Party: The LP can do nothing without your help.

Can we rely on you to continue supporting the national Libertarian Party, now that we need regular contributions more than ever?

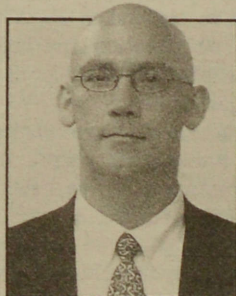




## THE EDITOR

# Americans believe in self-sufficiency, right?

One of my neighbors at my new home in South Carolina is a middle-aged welfare queen, a full-fledged proponent of (and beneficiary of) the welfare state. This is exemplified by her reliance on "government assistance" for housing, food, education for her children and a host of other items.



By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR

It may seem strange, since I often have trouble identifying with people who milk the system, but I've grown friendly with this woman over recent months, in a neighbors-over-the-back-fence kind of way. Every week or two I spend a half-hour or so talking to her, and it's been educational.

She recently said something that opened my eyes. We were talking about her kids, and she said that there is nothing more important to her than her two children.

She said she was glad she doesn't have to work, because it allows her to be at home when her kids get out of school. As she doesn't work, she's able to support her children in their after-school activities. Unlike working parents, she has almost unlimited time to spend with her kids.

In her mind, this makes her a better-than-average parent.

"My children are my responsibility. I have to take care of them," she said, adding that I'll never know true satisfaction in life until I have children of my own to dedicate my life to.

A laudable sentiment, I'm sure. Unfortunately, though perhaps predictably, she neglected to take into consideration the fact that she is only able to spend so much time with her children because she lives on the fruits of my labor. She receives assistance from federal, state and local governments — all of which I reluctantly support via taxes of many descriptions — yet has the unmitigated gall to think she's doing it all on her own.

Our society allows her to believe that because she is a single mom, dealing with HIV all on her own, she's to be congratulated for struggling through and succeeding in life.

But my neighbor isn't the only one with these delusions of self-sufficient grandeur. There are many others — and bureaucrats encourage them.

When I worked for a newspaper in northern Georgia several years ago, I was directed to write a story about the tremendous strides a local tax-funded program was making in helping single mothers get off welfare and "back on their feet." Sounds good, right?

However, the program's biggest success story was a woman who had gone through the program, managed to get a job working as a receptionist for the program itself, and was buying a house. She had managed to get special funding for the home-buying step, and was helping other people learn how to take advantage of her government programs of choice.

She was taking advantage, milking the system for everything she could get. She got "career training" using tax money, she went to work at a taxpayer-funded organization, she was buying a house using (in part) other people's money, and I was expected to write a story lauding her as a newly minted self-sufficient success in life.

Suffice it to say that I had more than my usual amount of difficulty in writing that story.

Examples such as these are everywhere. Who doesn't know so-called advocates of self-sufficiency who blithely, as a matter of course, send their children to tax-funded schools, while criticizing people who gladly take other forms of welfare?

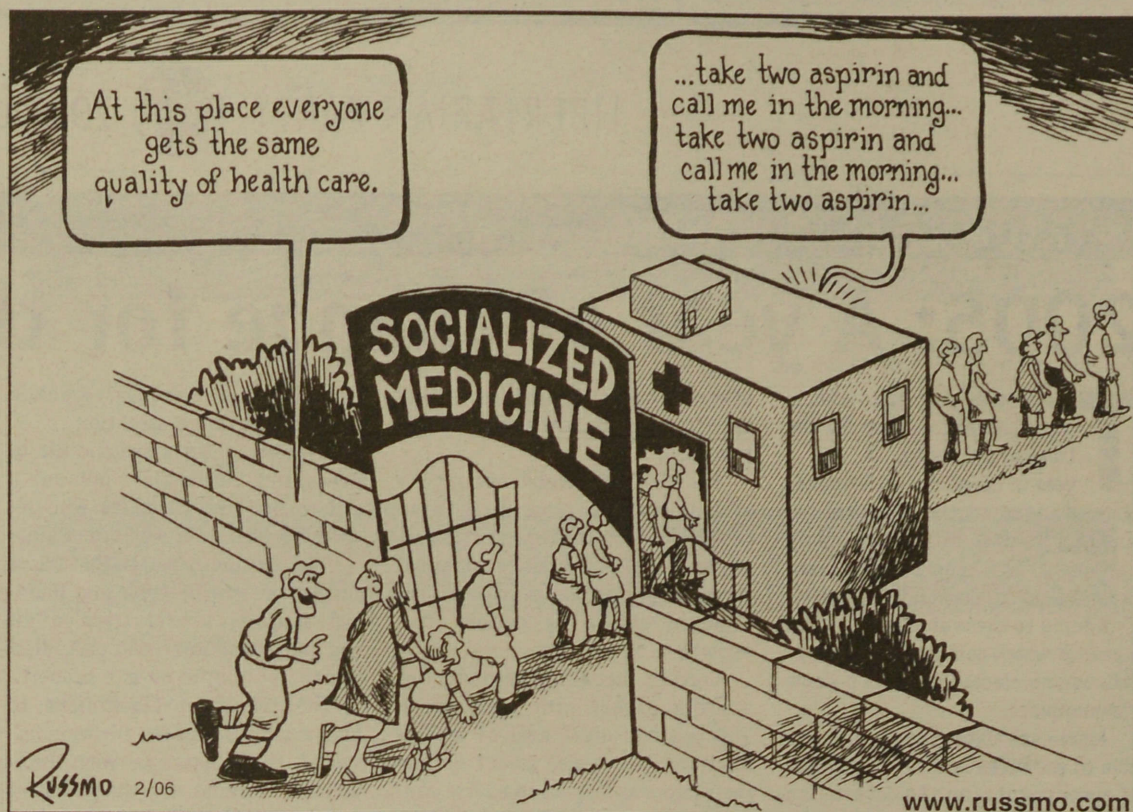
Prime examples of this type of duplicity are almost innumerable.

But I have difficulty actively criticizing these deluded folks. They have fallen prey to one of the most successful marketing strategies ever devised — the one through which politicians and bureaucrats have managed to convince Americans that society and government are one and the same.

According to them, I'm not paying taxes. Rather, I'm contributing to society. I'm not helping government provide handouts; I'm helping people get back on their feet.

Tragically, Americans truly believe that they can simultaneously be self-sufficient and accept government assistance, that they can with a clear conscience take advantage of our flawed system.

But a majority of the blame for that lies at the feet of the enablers, who developed this consummately manipulable system.



## THE MAILBOX

### ■ Anarchists?

I just finished reading Dr. Carl S. Milsted, Jr.'s piece ("Are we Libertarians or anarchists?") in the February 2006 LP News.

First of all, a general definition of "anarchist" is "one who rebels against any authority, established order, or ruling power." In that very narrow definition, I suppose we do have a few anarchists within the Libertarian Party.

The reality, though, is that traditional anarchists are opposed to anything that has to do with government, including joining political parties or registering to vote. They refuse these activities, because they "further legitimize the State."

Anarcho-capitalists also fight against any illegitimate ruling powers. But unlike traditional anarchists, they strongly support private property rights, self-ownership, the right to contract, and free markets.

Also unlike traditional anarchists, many anarcho-capitalists, like myself, have no problem with joining political parties or voting, as long as the goal is to continuously work to reduce the size and scope of government.

Article III, #16 of the LP's Statement of Principles inspires me to fight for freedom under the LP banner: "The Principle: As all political association must be voluntary, we recognize the right to political secession. This includes the right to secession by political entities, private groups or individuals. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others."

While many anarchists and anarcho-capitalists would object to implied membership, and having to

"secede" in the first place, the end result would be the same for those who do not want to be ruled by government.

At the same time, anarcho-capitalists support the unlimited right to contract, so anyone who wishes to contract to be a part of a government, or be ruled by a government, can choose to do so voluntarily.

Unfortunately, there are two dominating parties that excel in the

**THERE ARE TWO parties that excel in the use of government force — and we can all see what that force has done for liberty.**

use of government force — and we can all see what that force has done for liberty.

I am a part of the Libertarian Party because the LP works to stop the initiation of force.

There is no such thing as "somewhat free" or "mostly free." You are free, or you are a slave — period. There is no middle ground.

If I am forced to live my life the way someone else feels that I should, or if I am forced to pay taxes for things that I do not support or agree to, I am not free.

Anyone who advocates eliminating the LP Pledge, so that force is a future option, is no friend of liberty.

—DOUG KENDALL  
Kershaw County, South Carolina

### ■ Driver's license

We all know that the states regard a driver's license as a privilege, not a right. This distinction gives the police and judges the power to skip due process.

I recently experienced this first hand.

I have a New York driver's license. On Nov. 1, 2005, I was stopped at Austintown, Ohio, for speeding.

The state trooper told me to walk a straight line. He tried to coerce me into saying that I was tired and intoxicated.

I had had seven hours of sleep and had consumed no alcohol or drugs other than those prescribed to me.

I took some tests that the trooper said showed I was impaired. He gave me a breath test that indicated that I had no alcohol. He told me to take a urine test.

Then, even though I wasn't convicted of anything, he took away my driver's license and gave me a photocopy. He said that the license would be sent to Columbus and destroyed.

The judge later accepted my "not guilty" plea, but told me that I wouldn't be allowed to drive, even though I hadn't been convicted of anything.

Three months later, I was told that the charges were being dropped. The state had proof well before that — yet I had to wait for the three months to pass, I had to pay to have somebody pick me up, and I had to pay \$20.00 to have a new license issued, since the state of Ohio stole mine from me.

Let's end this abuse of due process now.

—KEN MITCHELL  
Newburgh, New York



## THE MAILBOX

### Read the bills

For the most part, I agree that all legislators should read the bills they vote on.

But unfortunately, many bills are so huge, they cannot be read — certainly not studied — within a reasonable time. For example, NAF-TA was said to be about 2,000 pages long — about twice the length of *Atlas Shrugged*.

In a practical context, a legislator does not have to read every bill. But legislators should always read and carefully study every bill that they vote "Yes" on.

Considering the fact that about 99 percent of all bills that reach the floor for a vote are undesirable, and most of these can be easily recognized as such, they need only a "No" vote to send them on their way to the trash can.

Of course if a legislator has enough time and/or he needs material to filibuster and kill a bad bill, he should read it. And of course, he should study marginal bills to make sure they contain no Trojan horses. If any part of a bill is bad, vote "No."

That way, a legislator does not need to waste his time reading too much garbage.

This is further explained in my article "The Duty of a Legislator" in [FreeAlabama.com](http://FreeAlabama.com).

—JOHN MARTIN  
Wetumpka, Alabama

### Minimal government

The articles "Are Libertarians Anarchists?" (Dr. Carl S. Milsted, Jr.) and "Hemingway Was Right" (J. Daniel Cloud) agree on the true meaning of Libertarianism: minimal government.

I have spoken to many who agree the Daddy State (Republicans) and the Nanny State (Democrats) are opposite sides of the same tarnished coin, both hungry for power.

Government's purpose is to maintain critical infrastructure (road building, maintenance, snow plowing; water and sewer systems; police, fire, EMS, etc.) and to protect individual freedoms.

21st Century government excels at only two things: limiting personal freedoms (indoor and outdoor smoking bans, anti-gun legislation, the Patriot Act) and taxing every conceivable form of goods and services even though government gains revenue but provides no value-added.

Why is this the case? Because government can get away with it!

—TONY GONZALEZ, Sr.  
Gardners, Pennsylvania

### Stupidity

Last week, Congress and President Bush invited 7,000 Russian Muslim immigrants, without inspection of any kind, into our country. Was this a hoax?

Why didn't someone protest

admitting 7,000 members of a religious sect that bombs its way into the 21st Century?

The harsh and glaring reality of the insanity of Islam manifested itself last month when millions rioted over cartoons. Those riots show that shari'a law remain incompatible with free speech and democracy.

Bush was also willing to sign control of 22 ports over to the United Arab Emirates. These people fund the deadly terrorist group Hamas,

which is bent on killing every Jew in the world. The UAE served up two of the 9/11 terrorists that killed 3,000 Americans. UAE launders terror-sponsoring money throughout the world. And at the United Nations, the UAE votes against the United States 70 percent of the time.

What about the bald-faced lie of weapons of mass destruction that has killed or maimed 17,000 of our nation's finest soldiers in Iraq? Bush defends this war waged against ter-

ror while our southern borders stand open and ungarded to terrorists 24 hours per day.

Why not leave the rest of the world's countries to their own responsibilities? To manifest their own choices? You can't expect to bring democratic reforms to countries where Islamic law dominates their core culture.

How stupid is this president?  
—DAVID MCINTOSH  
Cedaredge, Colorado

### The general welfare

It's laughable, how the anti-

American, anti-big-business crowd embraces big government — which has the power to gouge big business, with punitive taxation to fund its socialist schemes, embraced by individuals and collective socialists.

While taxpayers shouldn't be forced to subsidize corporate welfare, neither should they be forced to subsidize socialist welfare schemes.

Promoting the general welfare was long ago transformed into forcing taxpayers to provide the general welfare.

—HARRY THOMPSON  
Tucson, Arizona

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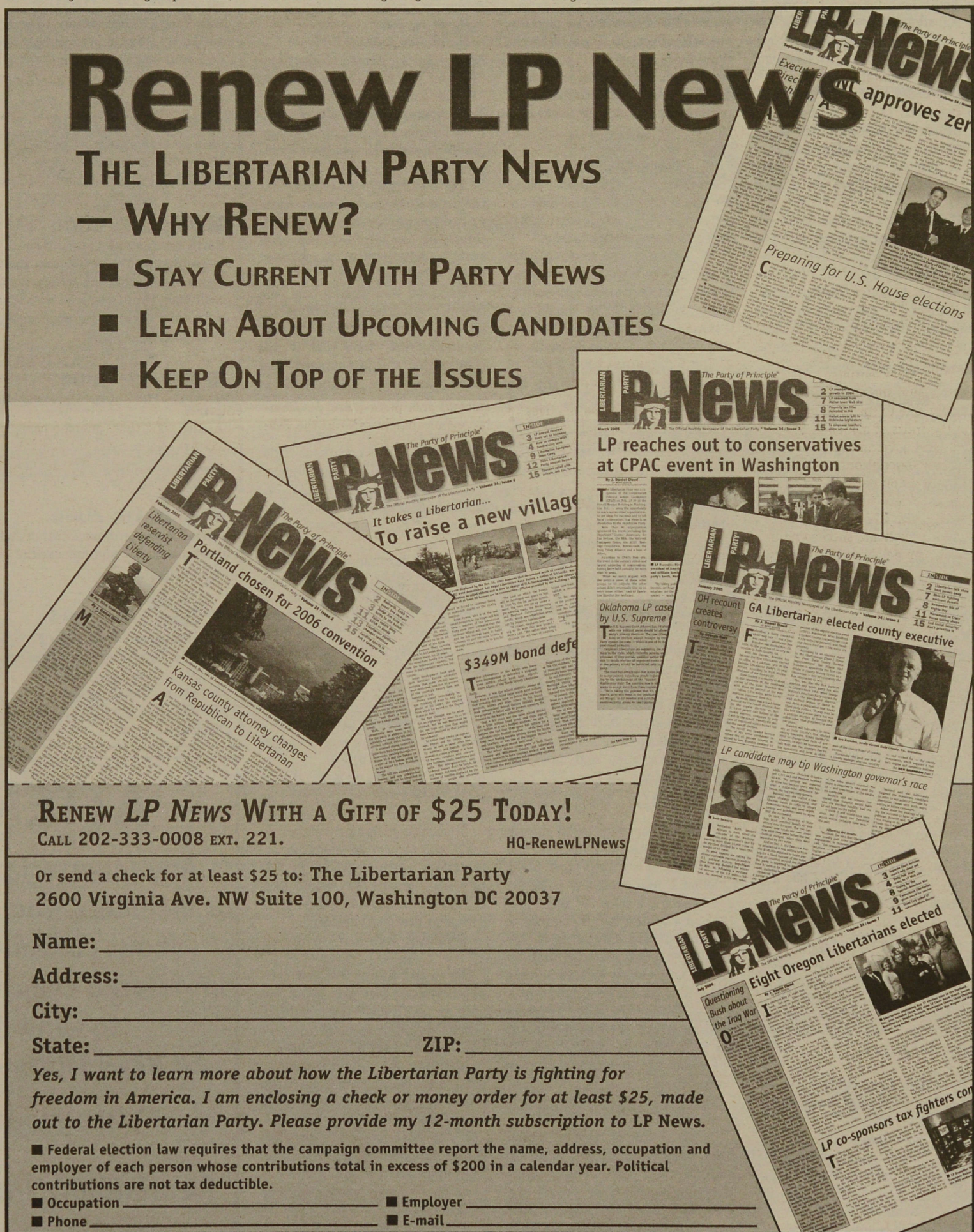
■ Federal election law requires that the campaign committee report the name, address, occupation and employer of each person whose contributions total in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.

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■ Employer \_\_\_\_\_

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## Best of the Blog: Recent posts and comments on LP.org

### ■ Houston police chief wants surveillance cameras in private homes

—February 22, 2006

—By Matthew Dailey

**H**ouston police chief Harold Hurtt has proposed putting surveillance cameras in apartment complexes, downtown streets — and even private homes, according to an Associated Press report.

Apparently the police are no longer satisfied with using surveillance cameras to just catch speeders and traffic violators.

Hurtt defended his comments to reporters, saying, "I know a lot of people are concerned about Big Brother, but my response to that is, if you are not doing anything wrong, why should you worry about it?"

Under Hurtt's proposal, malls and large apartment complexes would be required to install surveillance cameras when they apply for a building permit. If city police have to repeatedly respond to calls from the same residence, Hurtt says it is reasonable to require surveillance cameras be installed on the property.

#### Reader Comments:

Anyone who argues the "slippery-slope" argument is invalid simply cannot look at the facts. What is wrong with these types of cops? Aren't they supposed to serve the public?

Posted by: Chad

What we need to work on is prevention: better educational requirements for police officers, educating the public on the dangers of "safety laws," etc.

Police need to really understand the law and the constitution. You'd be shocked how many cops truly do not know the law.

Posted by: anonymous

If Chief Hurtt has nothing to hide, perhaps he should lead the way by installing cameras in his house, office, car, boat, and on his person that we could all monitor from a Web site 24 hours a day. After all, if he isn't doing anything wrong, he shouldn't worry about it.

Posted by: Brent

Ladies and gentlemen, what are we going to do about this? Political parties exist to be active on specific subjects. This one's right up our alley. What's the game-plan? What's the next step? What's the goal?

Posted by: Ian C.

### ■ Kansas senator wants to try out flat tax in District of Columbia

—March 10, 2006

—By Matthew Dailey

**S**en. Sam Brownback is in favor of a flat federal income tax but wants to try it out in the District of Columbia first.

Brownback is proposing conduct-

ing an experiment where District residents would be taxed by the federal government at a flat rate, the *Washington Times* reported recently. He stated at a Senate Appropriations Committee hearing on Wednesday that D.C. residents could participate either in the new flat-tax system or the existing one.

Daniel Mitchell, a political economist at the Heritage Foundation, stated that if Brownback's plan was put into effect, "D.C. would be the Hong Kong of America. Income and wealth would go up so much that there would be a huge influx of tax revenue for the city. It would be a mecca."

#### Reader Comments:

In 1996, on CBS News' "Reality Check," journalist Eric Engburg called the Flat Tax proposal introduced by Steve Forbes "wacky."

He stated on that segment that "The flat tax is a giant, untested theory. One economist suggested, before we put it in, we should test it someplace like Albania." That was stupidity journalism at its worst.

The flat tax has been tested in Russia and in other Eastern European Countries. It has worked miracles. In fact, the economies of Eastern Europe have grown more rapidly than their Western counterparts since the introduction of the flat tax.

I would prefer, like most of my libertarian brothers and sisters, that the income tax were abolished. But for now, if the flat tax has caused a great rave in Eastern Europe, why not do it here?

Posted by: Alex Pugliese

I wonder if our forefathers paid as many taxes as we do now. I wonder when enough is going to be enough and when people are gonna stop talking and start doing something to change it.

Vote Libertarian and Save the Constitution!!!

Posted by: Ed

I am not opposed to an income tax, or a sales tax, or a fuel tax, or a vehicle tax, or any other kind of tax.

What I am opposed to is an income tax and a sales tax and a fuel tax and a vehicle tax. If the federal government did only what it was authorized by the Constitution to do, it could operate with 99 percent less money than it does currently.

The government needs to decide on one method of taxation and apply it to everyone equally, and do only what it is allowed to do by the Constitution.

Posted by: Keith

A flat income or sales tax would be a step in the right direction with the right protections in place. Hopefully some day we can get to a zero tax system, but with our current thinking the Libertarian Party

will never get us there.

Posted by: Terry

Why doesn't Senator Brownback propose and push for a flat tax in his own state? Perhaps this is a case of 'not in my backyard'.

Posted by: William Munney

### ■ The FBI just can't complete its computer systems overhaul

—March 14, 2006

—By Matthew Dailey

**T**he Federal Bureau of Investigation just can't quite complete the long-overdue overhaul of its computer systems. The FBI has tried for years to upgrade its computer systems with less than promising results.

The *New York Times* reports that the federal law enforcement agency had to stop the final phase in a three-part computer overhaul after spending \$170 million on its failed Virtual Case File system.

Some of the Virtual Case File system's problems, according to the Justice Department inspector general's office, were that it was "fragmented and ill equipped" and suffered from wide-scale turnover in personnel.

A report prepared by the Justice Department inspector general's office found the latest overhaul of the agency's computer systems, dubbed the Sentinel project, will cost another estimated \$500 million over the next three to four years.

#### Reader Comments:

I would rather the FBI just take the entire year's budget in cash, put it all in a pile using dump trucks, and just set it all on fire and let it burn. At least that way it'll be efficiently wasted.

Posted by: Nick

The only way it gets done in a timely, cost-effective way is by contracting out to a private company to do the job. At least you will have someone to go after if it doesn't go right.

Since the government didn't do it right they just get more money. A private company wouldn't be getting that money. They would have to make sure they got it done right with that first \$170 million.

Posted by: Terry

We've had fiascos like this computer system deal for years, but what is really scary (or promising, depending on your point view) is the seeming decay of government.

The Iraq war, the immigration mess, exploding national debt, and the prescription drug benefit screw-up are symptoms of an accelerating decay of government. Government is getting more and more incompetent, at an ever-increasing rate.

Hold on to your hat: It's going to be a wild ride.

Posted by: Lew Jeppson

## UPCOMING

### ■ April 29, 2006

**Kansas LP Convention**, to be held at the Shawnee Country Club in Topeka. Featured speaker: Sharon Harris, president of the Advocates for Self-Government. For details, go to [www.lpks.org](http://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, e-mail Scott Berkey at [berkeyscott@hotmail.com](mailto:berkeyscott@hotmail.com), go to [www.vtlp.org](http://www.vtlp.org) or call (802) 728-6211.

### ■ 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

**Ohio LP Convention**, to be held at the Mohican state park and lodge. LP founder David Nolan will be the keynote speaker. For details, call Kevin Knedler at (740) 881-2566 or visit [www.lpo.org](http://www.lpo.org).

### ■ 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](mailto:convention@lpnc.org), or visit [www.lpnc.org](http://www.lpnc.org).

### ■ May 13, 2006

**Michigan LP Convention**, to be held at the Comfort Inn in Chelsea, Mich. A welcome party will be held on Friday night before the Saturday convention. Exact times have not been announced. For details when available, visit [www.mi.lp.org](http://www.mi.lp.org), call Nathan Allen at (248) 891-3003, or e-mail [chair@lpmich.org](mailto:chair@lpmich.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](http://www.tx.lp.org).

### ■ July 1-2, 2006

**2006 National Libertarian Party Convention**, to be held at the Portland Hilton and Executive Tower in Portland, Ore. Speakers to include former Congressman Bob Barr and BBC correspondent Andrew Neil. For additional details, see the story on Page 1 of this issue of *LP News*. Visit [www.LP.org](http://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](mailto:Daniel.Cloud@LP.org)

Remember: *I need your help.*



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**Visit LP.org often to keep up with current LP-related events.**



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## UPCOMING

### ■ 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>.



■ Babka

### ■ April 8, 2006

**Alabama LP Convention**, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Country Inn and Suites on Carmichael Road in Montgomery. Speakers to include Sharon Harris of the Advocates for Self-Government, LNC member Michael Colley, and state Rep. Randy Hinshaw. For details, e-mail [gallatin76@aol.com](mailto:gallatin76@aol.com), call (205) 328-8683, or visit [www.al.lp.org](http://www.al.lp.org).

### ■ April 8, 2006

**Delaware LP Convention**, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., at Stewart's Brewing Company in Bear, Delaware. Speakers to include LNC member Jim Lark, U.S. Marshal Matthew F. Fogg of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, and John Flaherty of Common Cause. For details, e-mail [georgejlp@xemaps.com](mailto:georgejlp@xemaps.com) or visit [www.de.lp.org](http://www.de.lp.org).



■ Lark

### ■ April 8-9, 2006

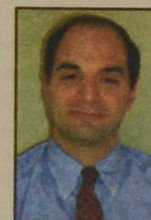
**Washington LP Convention**, "Building Tomorrow Together," at the Kitsap Conference Center in Bremerton. Presentations focusing on five subjects: education, the environment, healthcare, property rights and transportation. For details when available, call (425) 641-8247, e-mail [officemanager@lpwa.org](mailto:officemanager@lpwa.org), or visit [www.lpwa.org](http://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 include former congressman Bob Barr, LNC members Michael Dixon, R. Lee Wrights and Adm. Michael Colley (Ret.), and elected Libertarians Ben Brandon and Jeff Edgens, among others. For more information when available, go to [www.LPGeorgia.com](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:lpinhq@lpin.org), or visit [www.lpin.org](http://www.lpin.org).

### ■ 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](mailto:chairman@sclibertarians.org), or visit [www.sclibertarians.org](http://www.sclibertarians.org). [For more Upcoming Events, see page 18]

## Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

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## INSIDE

■ **PAGE 1** Two-time LP presidential candidate Harry Browne dies

■ **PAGE 1** LNC works on affiliate services agreement

■ **PAGE 3** NM county commissioner switches registration to LP

■ **PAGE 3** Elected Libertarian helps cut city budget by 5 percent



## FIRST WORD

"Libertarians take the best issues from the old parties. For example, Democrats and Libertarians may agree on free speech, civil liberties, war, personal choices and privacy. Republicans and Libertarians may agree on free trade, choice in education and cutting taxes.

"Do you want real change? What voters should ask is 'Am I wasting my vote on the old parties?'

"The answer is YES. If you keep voting for the 'lesser of two evils,' you still are getting 'evil.' Your vote encourages them to do more of the same. ... We can no longer vote the status quo."

— COREY STERN, *The Minnesota Daily*, March 1, 2006

"Individuals who run third party movements rarely win public office, but sometimes their ideas can influence a nation after they are laid to rest. ... Whether Harry Browne will have such influence is still to be decided. Mr. Browne, a Libertarian, first won fame with his tremendous 1974 best seller, *How I Found Freedom in an Unfree World*.

"Browne ran for president on the Libertarian Party ticket twice, in 1996 and 2000. While not having electoral success, he was influential in moving Libertarian thought from the fringes. His influence on the politics of this nation remains to be written. Perhaps Libertarianism will ... continue to have considerable influence in the nation's political future.

"Regardless, as one fellow Libertarian noted, Mr. Browne was 'a consistent and hardcore and vital voice for liberty.' Mr. Browne died recently, but being a 'hard-core and vital voice for liberty,' is not a bad epitaph.

— EDITORIAL STAFF, *Daily News Record Online* [Harrisonburg, Va.], March 8, 2006