

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY LP NEWS

The Party of Principle

April 1999

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## San Diego LP stops tax boost

**S**an Diego Libertarians have at least 423 million reasons to celebrate this month: They played a pivotal role in stopping Proposition L, which would have raised county taxes by \$423 million over five years.

On March 2, San Diego County voters rejected the measure by 50.2% to 49.8%. A two-thirds vote was needed for the proposition to pass.

"Victory is indeed sweet!" said Richard Rider, a long-time LP activist who helped coordinate the anti-Proposition L campaign. "They [tax supporters] got whupped!"

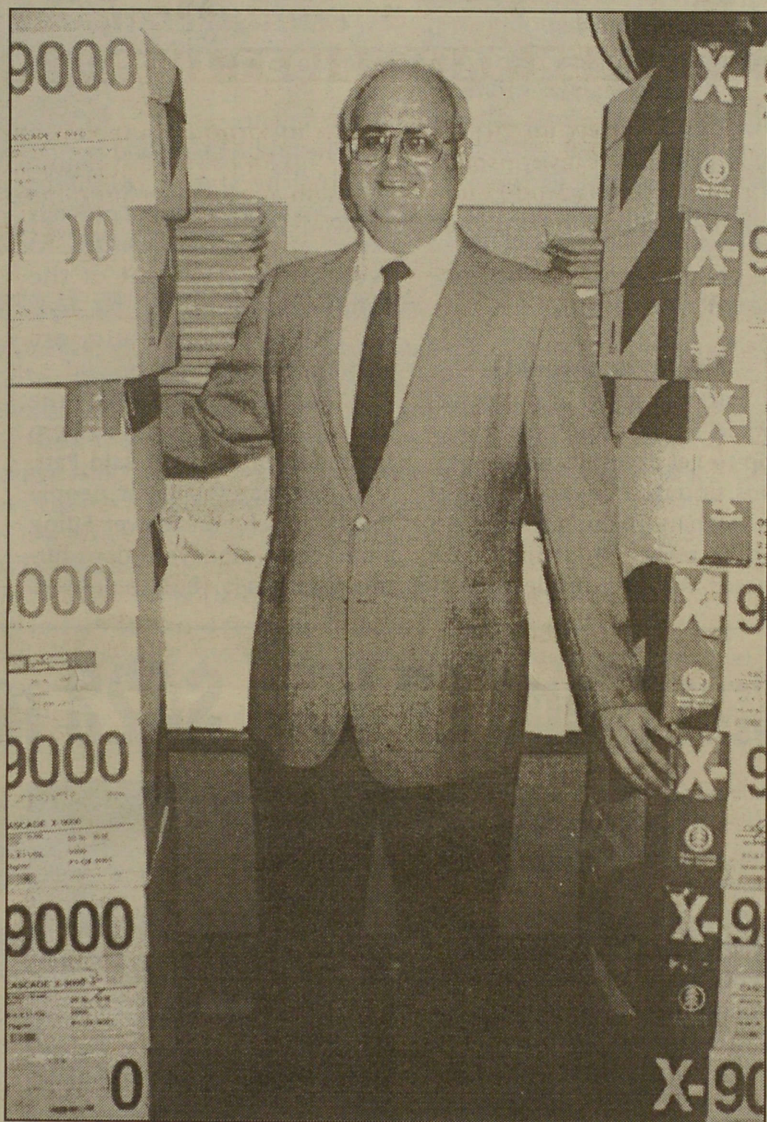
Proposition L would have imposed a "temporary" one-quarter percent sales tax increase for libraries in the county.

"In spite of the pretense that it was a small amount of money, it would raise at least \$423 million, costing the average family of four \$112 a year," noted Rider.

Libertarians opposed Proposition L for several reasons, said Rider.

"We don't need a new tax — if libraries are a priority, get the money from the existing taxes," he said. " [Also], we should pri-

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■ LP National Director Steve Dasbach is surrounded by boxes containing some of the quarter-million "Know Your Customer" comments received by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, at their office in Washington, DC, on March 5.

## Bank spying bill: Down but not out?

*"Know Your Customer" regulation hit by 253,000 complaints — was it enough?*

Is it dead yet?

That's the question Libertarians are asking about the Know Your Customer regulation, which would have required banks to spy on their customers for the federal government.

The answer: Thanks in large part to the efforts of the Libertarian Party, the controversial proposal is down — but it may not yet be completely out.

"We have won the first round of the battle against Know Your Customer," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "But the fight may not be over yet."

On March 8, Donna Tanoue, the head of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, announced that "the public has spoken very loudly and clearly," and said she will urge the FDIC's four-member board to drop the rule at their next meeting on March 23. [LP News went to press

before the final decision was announced.]

The Know Your Customer regulation would have required banks to determine where customers get their money, monitor bank transactions, and report any "unusual activity" to federal law enforcement agencies. The Libertarian Party denounced it as an unconstitutional Big Brother-style surveillance measure.

### 253,000 comments

The FDIC backed away from the proposal after being hammered by up to 253,000 e-mail messages, letters, and faxes during its public comment period, which ended on March 8.

Of those comments, 171,268 were generated by the Libertarian Party's DefendYourPrivacy.com website.

Up and running since February 17, the site generated an

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## VERMONT LEGISLATIVE REPORT

# The Champion Land Deal versus Liberty

*VT State Rep. Neil Randall learned about politics while fighting \$4.5 million proposal*

**E**ditor's note: Neil Randall was sworn in as the only Libertarian state legislator in the Vermont Assembly in January 1999. He immediately found himself involved in a battle over the so-called Champion Land Deal, a proposal to allow the state to assume control over 133,000 acres of "private" land at a cost of \$4.5 million.

Randall opposed the deal, he said, because it resembled "fas-

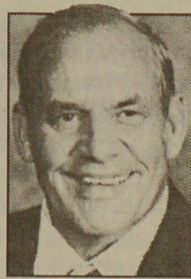
cism." Stripped of its pejorative connotations, fascism is simply a political system that allows private ownership of land and property — but allows the government to dictate the terms and uses of that property.

The Champion Land Deal, argued Randall, was a classic case of exactly that. The land would be sold to the non-profit Conservation Fund, but the state government would decide how the

land could be used. And state taxpayers would pick up the cost — \$4.5 million.

LP News asked State Representative Randall to

write about the saga of the Champion Land Deal, since it is a classic example of the kind of issues Libertarians will have to deal with as they move into state government. Here is his story.



■ Randall: "Not intimidated."

**By Neil Randall**

*LP State Representative*

**A**fter being elected and sworn in to the Vermont House of Representatives, my first lessons in smoke, mirrors, and "power politics" came very early.

Though I entered the Assembly somewhat cynical, I was not prepared for the duplicity I was about to encounter.

The learning curve is quite steep and I missed many tip-offs that some people in leadership

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McWilliams loses medical marijuana appeal in California

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Arizona lawsuit filed over "adult" laws



# NEWSBRIEFS

## Washington Post discovers Libertarians

The *Washington Post* is usually a Libertarian-free zone, but not the past few months: Two major articles about Libertarian Party members have appeared in the notoriously liberal newspaper.

On February 8, the *Post* featured a front-page story about the growing jury nullification movement, focusing specifically on the Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA) and its Libertarian founder, Larry Dodge.

The article noted that the FIJA movement is being partly driven by "libertarians who abhor the overbearing hand of government," and is catching on "in courthouses across the country." Dodge, whose page-one photograph adorned the issue, was also quoted as saying, "Jurors have an absolute right to veto unjust laws."

And on January 30, the *Post's* business section displayed a prominent photograph of LP member Michael Tanner — with a story describing his work at the Cato Institute to privatize Social Security. Although labeling some of the Cato Institute's ideas as "just this side of zany," the *Post* acknowledged that the influential, non-partisan think tank's relentless campaign for replacing the government's faltering Social Security system with private accounts was finally paying off.

Tanner's days are "now a blur of television and radio cameos," the article stated — before asking why he was "obsessed" with this issue. "I'm not obsessed by Social Security. I'm obsessed by liberty," Tanner responded.

Libertarian Party officials said the coverage in the *Post* is surprising — and heartening. "If even the *Washington Post* is beginning to realize that Libertarians are having a major impact on public policy, you've got to consider that a breakthrough," said LP Communications Director Bill Winter.

## Missouri LP mourns death of Karl Wetzel

Missouri Libertarians are mourning the untimely death of state party treasurer Karl Wetzel, who died on February 17 from a heart attack shortly after leaving a Kansas City Metro LP meeting. He was 48.

Besides serving as treasurer, Wetzel was a former member of the Libertarian National Committee, had served as the State Chair of the Nebraska and Iowa Libertarian parties, and had run for Congress twice in Missouri's 6th District.

Professionally, Wetzel was a mainframe computer programmer for Midwest Consulting Group, a Sprint subcontractor.

"A lifelong Libertarian, he had a wonderful sense of humor and loved science fiction and movies," said Grant Stauffer, the chair of the Jackson County LP. "Karl had no family; Libertarians were his family. His dedication and sense of humor will be sorely missed."

The Missouri LP is now considering establishing the Karl Wetzel Memorial Award "for those who have contributed the most to Liberty," said Stouffer.

## IHS offers summer student programs

How would you like to spend the summer of 1999 talking about libertarian issues, discovering the foundations of libertarian thought, and examining how liberty and culture are connected? You can, and even get all your expenses paid, if you're a college student — thanks to the Institute for Humane Studies, which is sponsoring a series of summer seminars around the country in June and July.

The Fairfax, Virginia-based, non-partisan free market institute is offering three- to seven-day seminars in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, Washington DC, and California, open to qualified graduate and undergraduate students. Deadline for applying: March 31, 1999.

"At an IHS seminar, you have a unique opportunity to think about social and political issues outside the usual boundaries," said Collette Ridgeway, the Director of Student Applications.

For more information or to apply, call (800) 697-8799. Or visit the IHS website: [www.TheIHS.org](http://www.TheIHS.org).

# LP member John Paff uses FOI to pry records from NJ governments

New Jersey Libertarian John Paff has developed a reputation as a man who won't take no for an answer when it comes to getting access to government documents.

Over the past year, Paff has filed one Freedom Of Information (FOI) lawsuit and is mulling another in an effort to pry loose information from state and local bureaucracies.

"The people have a right to know," said Paff, who is also the chairman of the Somerset County Libertarian Party.

"Either we take control of our lives and the well-being of our communities, or someone else will take control."

### Public documents

Paff has filed a successful lawsuit against Manville Township to get access to traffic citations, and may file a suit against Manalapan Township over his right to review Municipal Court records. All are considered public documents.

## JOHN PAFF:

*"Freedom is never free and is continually endangered."*

fight the battle to gain access to public records, you have to have the financial resources and time available."

It also takes determination — and Paff has that, too.

He is currently working on a project to obtain the salaries for employees of the South Brunswick School District, so he can post that information to his website: [www.jnj.org](http://www.jnj.org).

### Valuable bit

"This would be a valuable bit of information for people to have if they feel the school budget is too high and have to make a decision on voting," he said.

Why is Paff so committed to ferreting out information about government agencies — and willing to fight legal battles to win?

"Freedom is never free and is continually endangered," he said. "People have to understand this basic fact. The idea of open government is a joke if you can't get the information you need."

# San Diego LP kills \$423 million tax

Continued from Page 1

vitalize the libraries, as is now done in neighboring Riverside County.

"[And], the politicians called this special election four months after the regular November 1998 election specifically to get a low voter turnout. We wanted to drive a stake through the heart of special elections, and we think we were successful."

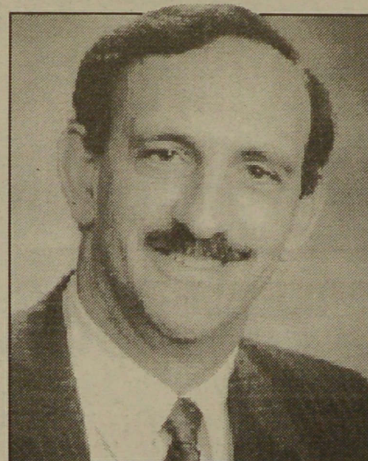
To fight the tax, local Libertarians raised money for radio ads, issued press releases, did numerous media interviews, posted signs, coordinated the ballot arguments, and organized a letters-to-the-editor campaign.

"We were the opposition spokesmen to the media," said Rider. "We made sure that we responded to any TV or radio editorial in favor of the measure, and our pieces were much more persuasive than our opponents."

### Focusing on cost

By focusing on the cost of the measure, Libertarians helped define the terms of the debate, said Rider.

"The opposition has publicly admitted that we put them on the defensive," he said. "They wanted to talk about libraries, we talked about higher taxes and alternatives that they refused to discuss."



■ Richard Rider: Libertarians "are the tax fighters in San Diego County [California]."

When the vote was tallied, "we Libertarians [got] the lion's share of the credit for the defeat of this tax," said Rider.

And as soon as the election was over, politicians acknowledged that there were other ways to fund libraries, he said.

"The day after the election, the politicians started coming up with new solutions to fund libraries without raising taxes," said Rider. "Well, knock me over with a feather! We thought that they would have faked a longer period of mourning."

Despite the victory, Libertarians aren't resting on their laurels: The next tax battle is already looming, said Rider.

"We are preparing ballot arguments against two new special elections for school bond tax assessments," he said. "Without us, there would be no opposition ballot arguments. We are the tax-fighters in San Diego County."

## LP NEWS

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## Medical marijuana protest urges: "Free Renee"

**L**P Political Director Ron Crickenberger (bottom left) participates in a protest in front of the DC Superior Court Building in Washington DC on February 8 to draw attention to the plight of medical marijuana patient Renee Emery. The protest was designed to highlight "the government's torturous treatment of medical marijuana patients," said Crickenberger. "For many, marijuana is the only medicine which relieves their suffering."

Emery, who suffers from multiple sclerosis, had been arrested in September 1998 for smoking medical marijuana in the office of U.S. Representative Bill McCollum (R-FL). She faces up to six months in jail if convicted.

"Renee got arrested so that someday other patients will not face prosecution," said Crickenberger. "If she is willing to face the cold floor of a jail cell to stand up for what's right, the least I could do was brave the cold rain of a February morning to protest her cruel and inhumane treatment by the government."

The protest was coordinated by the Marijuana Policy Project.

## Libertarian joins lawsuit to repeal 'puritan' Phoenix modeling studio law

**I**n an effort to "strike a blow against government attempts to suppress free expression," an Arizona Libertarian has joined in a lawsuit to overturn a new law in Phoenix that regulates adult businesses.

In mid-January, LP member Mike Renzulli became a plaintiff in a class action lawsuit which seeks to strike down a new city ordinance that reclassified nude modeling studios as "public areas." The effect of the law was to make modeling studios open for inspection by police officers without a warrant.

### Puritan socialism

"I believe that the law is an unconstitutional invasion of privacy and is an indirect infringement of the First Amendment," said Renzulli. "It's time someone put their foot down at government bureaucrats' latest attempts at Puritan socialism."

The lawsuit was filed by Frontier Entertainment in the District of Arizona Federal Court. At the first hearing on January

### MIKE RENZULLI:

*"They were trying to force their views of morality on me."*

26, the judge declined a request for a temporary restraining order against the law, while acknowledging that it was "maybe vague." The next hearing is scheduled for March 26.

The nude modeling studio ordinance was part of a package of laws that took effect in December 1998. Other regulations require licenses and background checks for topless dancers, and limit the hours of operation of adult video establishments.

Renzulli said he joined the lawsuit because "they needed a plaintiff to testify about the value the studios have for people who

use them for artistic and personal expression, not for sexual purposes. I gladly volunteered."

His participation was also a way for him "to express to the city [that] what they did was wrong," he said.

### Think twice

"They were trying to force their views of morality on me and everyone else who frequents these establishments," said Renzulli. "They only way that they will think twice about doing this is for people to come forward and speak out against it."

"I feel that we Libertarians should offer our services and help adult-oriented businesses that have been affected by onerous regulations."

**■ To make a contribution** to help pay for the lawsuit, make checks payable (and mail checks) to: Donna Hogen Attorney/Client Trust Fund, 11259 East Via Linda, Suite 100, Scottsdale AZ 85259. In the memo field of the check, write: "Case #CV99-0113 PHX RCB."

## McWilliams denied bid for medical marijuana

*"They're just going to let me die," he says*

**M**edical marijuana activist and LP member Peter McWilliams has lost an appeal to use physician-recommended marijuana as part of his treatment for AIDS while awaiting trial — a decision, he said, that means the government is "just going to let me die."

On March 11, U.S. District Judge George King denied McWilliams' request for permission to use medical marijuana, arguing that the court is not empowered to grant "what amounts to a license to violate federal law."

"They're just going to let me die," said McWilliams about the ruling. "I needed the judge to act, to give me back my medicine so I will be alive to defend myself in court. Medical marijuana was the only alternative."

After he was arrested on federal marijuana charges in 1998, McWilliams was prohibited from using medical marijuana as a condition of his release on bail. He is subjected to random drug tests, and would forfeit his bail if he tests positive.

McWilliams' attorney, Thomas J. Ballanco, said an appeal would be made to the 9th U.S. Circuit Court on the grounds that denying McWilliams access to medical marijuana constitutes an abridgment of his fundamental right to life.

In the hearing before Judge King, McWilliams had argued that he should be allowed to use the drug, thanks to Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana in California. He was joined in his appeal by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California.

### Lost 30 pounds

Since he has been denied access to marijuana — which he uses to suppress the nausea caused by the "cocktail combination" of anti-AIDS drugs he takes — McWilliams has lost 30 pounds and the amount of the HIV virus in his bloodstream has skyrocketed from undetectable to a level that will inevitably lead to the crumbling of his immune system, his doctor said.

If McWilliams doesn't regain the right to use medical marijuana, "his life is in jeopardy," said California State Senator

John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara), who issued a statement in support of McWilliams before the hearing.

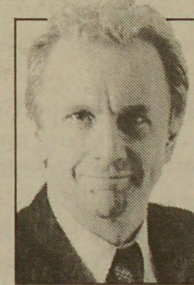
"As a result of the precipitous action by the court, Mr. McWilliams — whose health was long stable with the use of medical marijuana — is now in failing health. Tragically, the federal court [is guilty of] arrogance and inhumanity to the point of criminal culpability," he said.

The Libertarian Party also spoke out in favor of McWilliams' appeal — arguing that to refuse McWilliams access to marijuana is tantamount to a death sentence.

### Failed War on Drugs

"If the court refuses McWilliams' request for doctor-supervised medical marijuana, it will demonstrate that the government cares more about waging its failed War on Drugs than about keeping sick people alive," said Steve Dasbach, the LP's National director.

Since his arrest, McWilliams said his life has been devastated.



**■ McWilliams:** "Medical marijuana was the only alternative."

"I cannot have visitors. I do not go out. Germs, you know; a flu could kill me. I live the life of a hermit, laying in bed battling nausea, and going out only for medical appointments and court appearances."

However, McWilliams said, the cause is worth the hardship.

"I did not intentionally put my life in jeopardy for an unworthy cause," he said. "Like those who tossed chests of tea into Boston Harbor, were stationmasters on the Underground Railroad, were jailed for women's suffrage and reproductive rights, who stood up to McCarthy, marched with King, and protested against the War in Vietnam, getting marijuana to those in medical need is a worthy cause."

McWilliams, a #1 bestselling author who joined the LP at the 1998 National Convention, was charged with a conspiracy to grow marijuana plants in July 1998, which McWilliams said he planned to distribute to sick people under that state's medical marijuana law.

He entered a not guilty plea and said, "I have never sold a drug in my life."



# POLITICAL NEWS

## Heard the rumor? Ken Bisson for VP

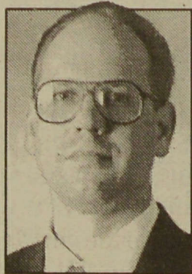
**W**ant to generate a little extra media attention for your local Libertarian Party? Just drop a hint that you might run for vice president in 2000.

That's what Ken Bisson did — and it got him a front-page story in the *Steuben County Herald-Republican* just before the organizational meeting of a new county party.

"I was planning [the] organizing meeting [and] asked the local LP intern to place a notice in the two local papers," recounted Bisson, who is also the Region 3 Representative of the Libertarian National Committee. "One of the paper's reporters had joined several locals on the Second Annual Libertarian Cruise and had overheard some chit-chat about my mulling a [potential future] VP campaign.

"When the intern called in the meeting notice, a question about some 'rumors about my national campaign' was posed to him. His honest claims of ignorance of the matter prompted an interview with me, then the front page story with photo" — and expanded coverage of the local meeting.

Mulling the unexpected media coverage for a race he doesn't seriously plan to enter, Bisson said, "I see no reason that several hundred small-town Libertarian activists can't also ponder a run for U.S. vice president! I guess a little rumor dropping in the right places really stimulates a reporter's 'scoop gland.' "



**Ken Bisson:**  
VP material?

## Proportional Representation bill is filed

**A** bill has been filed in Congress to allow states the option of using proportional representative voting to elect U.S. House Representatives — a method that could make it much easier for Libertarian Party candidates to get elected to Congress.

In mid-March, the States' Choice of Voting Systems Act was filed by U.S. Representatives Melvin L. Watt (D-NC) and Eva Clayton (D-NC).

"It is a simple [bill]: It restores the Constitutional status quo of allowing states the option to use multi-seat districts for House elections," said Rob Richie, Executive Director of the Center for Voting and Democracy (CVD), which supports the bill. "It's both a states' rights issue and one that would allow states to use proportional voting systems — the opening any new party needs to get a foothold in our system."

Currently, federal law limits states to single-member Congressional districts, which "is not a requirement of the Constitution. It was imposed by a federal statute in 1967," said Watt and Clayton. "The States' Choice of Voting Systems Act would empower states to make the choice between single-member districts, multi-member districts, or a combination of the two."

For more information on the bill, visit the CVD website: [www.fairvote.org](http://www.fairvote.org).

## Help offered for grassroots organizations

**T**he Free Congress Foundation has formed a new organization "designed to help keep grassroots organizations aware of legislative and regulatory action concerning privacy and technology issues."

Called the Coalition for Constitutional Liberties (CCL), the group "is looking for organizations throughout the country to network together for the preservation of our liberties against attacks by government agencies and institutions," said spokesperson Julie Malone.

The CCL will "provide materials on these topics for distribution to member organizations that can then be forwarded to their constituents" — including an e-mail Weekly Update, Legislative Reports, Issue Briefs, and The Privacy Papers.

"If your organization would like to become a member of the Coalition, download the membership form, fill it out and fax it back to (202) 544-2819," said Malone.

Print out the membership form at: [www.freecongress.org](http://www.freecongress.org).

# California LP vows to fight in Kubby medical marijuana case

**T**he Libertarian Party of California announced that it has "not yet begun to fight" in the case of Steve and Michele Kubby, who have been ordered to stand trial on medical marijuana drug charges.

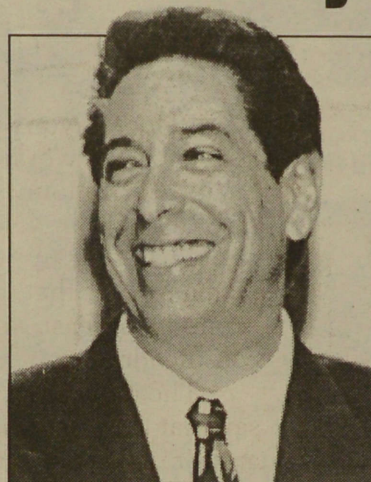
"That this case has gone this far is outrageous," said LP State Chair Mark Hinkle. "It either demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the law by the judge and prosecutors — or a willingness to ignore the law."

In a preliminary hearing on March 2 in Tahoe City Court, Superior Court Judge Robert Compagna dealt a major setback to the Kubbys' defense when he disallowed any Proposition 215 defense — thereby barring their attorneys from bringing up any medical marijuana issues.

### Unconscionable

"It's unconscionable for the prosecution to disallow a medical marijuana defense," said Hinkle. "Proposition 215, approved by 5.3 million Californians over two years ago, was meant to protect people like the Kubbys from suffering."

Steve Kubby, the 1998 Libertarian candidate for governor, and his wife Michele were arrested January 19 in a police raid of their Olympic Valley home.



■ **Steve Kubby:** His physical health is jeopardized, and his financial health is destroyed.

Despite being legitimate medical marijuana patients protected under Proposition 215, the Kubbys were charged with felony counts of cultivation and possession with intent to sell.

The Kubbys have persistently denied the charges, insisting they grew marijuana solely for personal medicinal use. Steve Kubby had been diagnosed with adrenal cancer in 1975 and used medical marijuana under doctor's orders. Michele Kubby also took medical marijuana to alleviate the symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome.

As a result of their arrest and prosecution, the Kubbys have

been forced to file for bankruptcy, noted Hinkle.

"In their zeal to lock up law-abiding citizens, prosecutors have jeopardized the Kubbys' physical health and destroyed their financial health," he said.

Hinkle said the California LP is studying ways to increase pressure on state legislators and the Attorney General to intervene.

### Leading fighters

"Libertarians are among the leading fighters in the battle for medical marijuana, and we will continue to fight — not just for the Kubbys but for all medical marijuana patients," he said.

In a related development, California Libertarians have also leveled charges of "foul play" in the case because a key witness for the prosecution will be an employee with the state Department of Justice — despite the fact that Attorney General Bill Lockyer has said that his department would work to implement Proposition 215.

On January 21, two days after the Kubbys were first arrested, the Libertarian Party sent Lockyer a letter, urging him to intervene in the case.

"This isn't the kind of intervention we had anticipated," said Hinkle.

# New national libertarian newsletter is planned by California LP member

**A** California LP member hopes to launch a national political newsletter that will give the party "a presence in every town or community" in the USA by the 2000 presidential elections.

Bruce Daniel has announced plans to start *The National Gazette*, a syndicated libertarian publication that would be sent out by e-mail, customized in each community, and financed by the sale of local advertising.

The goal, he said, is to "make the [2000 LP] presidential candidate an almost household name throughout the nation."

### Seeking investors

Daniel, who serves as the Publisher and Managing Director of the American Liberty News Service, the company which will distribute the newsletter, said he is currently seeking investors and

**BRUCE DANIEL**  
*hopes to make the LP "a household name."*

sponsors for the project.

His plan calls for his company to "make the *Gazette* available by syndication to local Libertarian publishers by e-mail. They then download a master copy, customize it for their location, place their ads, print it locally, and distribute locally. We will be sending a complete *Gazette* to each publisher," he said.

The cost for local distributors: A syndication start-up fee of about \$150, and \$15 per month for the downloaded master copy.

According to Daniel's projections, about \$1,300 could be raised in advertising revenues by each local monthly issue.

"It costs about \$550 to print 1,000 copies in this area. That leaves about \$750 for the publisher," he said.

*The National Gazette* is patterned after the *Loomis Liberty Gazette*, which Daniel has been publishing in Loomis, California for the last 18 months.

"Having now test-marketed the *Loomis Liberty Gazette* for over a year and a half, we know it is persuasive, effective, and practical," he said. "We are convinced that with our new *National Gazette*, we can have a nationwide impact well before the year 2000 elections."

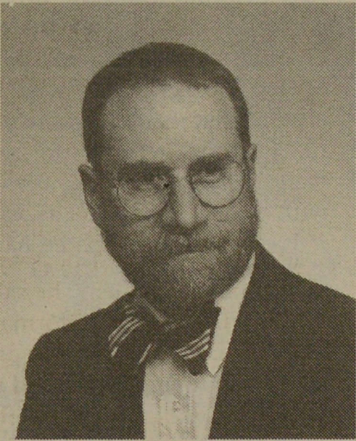
For more information, write: Bruce A. Daniel, P.O. Box 165, Loomis, CA 95650. E-mail: [bdaniel@americanliberty.org](mailto:bdaniel@americanliberty.org)



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## Spines of Jello, Not Steel

by Sheldon Richman

It's that time again when America's big tough steel companies and steel workers go whimpering to the federal government asking for protection from foreign steel bullies. "Prices are too low," they cry to the government. "Protect us!"

Since World War II this has happened more times than you can count. Every year the big integrated steel companies file suits claiming that foreign steel makers are "dumping" their products in the American market.

"Dumping." You know what that is? It's like a sale at K-Mart.

Indeed, imports do account for a larger part of the U.S. market than previously. The import share of hot-rolled steel, a key product, has risen from 23 percent to a record 35 percent. The price is down 18 percent, hitting a record low. American firms are cutting production and laying off some employees.

Before anyone panics, I have just two words: That's business. Economic conditions are always in flux. Jobs disappear, freeing up workers to take new jobs that, in a free economy at least, are always coming along.

The domestic companies say that the Japanese, Russians, and Brazilians are selling below cost. They want duties imposed to force the price back up. But foreign steel makers could have many good reasons for cutting prices. Asia's economic problems have dampened the demand for steel in that region. The companies have inventory to sell off. The American market is thriving. Of course they will try to sell here.

But is it unfair to sell below cost? How could it be? Trade between consenting adults can't be labeled "unfair." The parties would not engage in the trade if they didn't expect to come out ahead. Each values what he gets more than what he gives. That's true of all free exchange.

There is an easy way to cut through the dumping propaganda. Forget "cost of production." Those are yesterday's costs. Economic activity is aimed at the future. In deciding how much to accept for a product, a seller isn't guided by

costs paid yesterday. He tries for the best price today in light of what he thinks will happen tomorrow. If a price below "costs" serves his interests better than a higher price, he will take it. (That's why K-Mart has sales.)

We should not accept the American steel interests' claims at face value. Past charges of selling below the cost of production were based on dubiously high cost figures. Rather than using actual costs, the Americans used a formula cooked up to demonstrate dumping regardless of the actual situation.

The steel interests also argue that higher prices are good for all Americans. This is easily refuted. It may be good for the steel interests. But how in the world are higher prices good for American steel users, say, the auto makers? If they have to pay more for steel than their foreign rivals, they will be at a competitive disadvantage. They might have to cut production and lay off workers.

There is a profound lesson in this. Whenever government protects one set of Americans from competition (foreign or domestic) it hurts another set of Americans. This makes a mockery of the alleged solidarity of labor. When the United Steel-

workers trudge to Washington demanding shelter from foreign steel, they might as well be saying, "Throw the auto workers out of their jobs so that our members can keep working." The cause isn't quite as noble as they make it sound.

All barriers to foreign trade suffer from these defects. They violate the natural right of individuals to trade peacefully with whomever they choose, and they lower the living standards of consumers and other workers by artificially raising prices and making the protected companies lazy.

Ordinarily, there is nothing wrong with looking out for one's own interests. But when one does so by asking government to harm others, that is wrong and in the long run it isn't even good for the beneficiaries of the protectionist policies.

If we want peace and prosperity, free trade is the only way to go.

*Sheldon Richman is senior fellow at The Future of Freedom Foundation in Fairfax, Va., which published The Case for Free Trade and Open Immigration, and is editor of the magazine The Freeman: Ideas on Liberty.*

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# TALKINGPOINTS

## Save your life: Vote for Al Gore, & getting medieval on high taxes

### ■ Free-market space

NASA, the government agency that established its world dominance by putting a man on the moon in 1969, no longer rules the sky. Money does.

Last year marked the first time the commercial space industry surpassed the government's space-related spending.

"Everyone thinks the commercial [space] market will be the main growth. The question is how much, how fast?" said Joe Anselmo, editor of Aviation Week. "The government is not going to drive the industry anymore."

While government expenditures for space will remain about the same, [retired U.S. Air Force colonel Pedro] Rustan predicts the commercial market will continue growing rapidly at about 14% a year. In 2005, space will be a \$200 billion worldwide industry, of which \$170 billion will be commercial and about \$30 billion will be government, he said.

— THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
February 15, 1999

### ■ Or the Starr Report?

City officials [in Plainfield, Connecticut] passed an ordinance requiring a newly opened strip club and an adult-video store to turn away convicted sex offenders to prevent them from becoming aroused. The law requires each customer's identification to be checked against a list of local offenders, which so far includes only a few names.

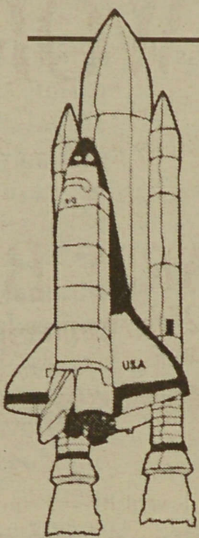
The club's owner says the law should also apply to the local cable company because it shows R-rated movies, the phone company because it hosts sex lines, the library because it has art books with nudes, and the public pool because women there wear bikinis.

— PLAYBOY MAGAZINE  
March 1999

### ■ Vote for me or die

The Clinton administration has developed a nasty habit of using personal tragedy to further its global warming agenda — from the snow-melt caused Red River flood in 1997, to Florida's fires last summer, to Hurricane Mitch. The head of the U.S.

EDITED BY  
**Marc Beauchamp**



IN 2005,  
space  
will be  
a \$200  
billion  
industry.

\$170  
billion will be  
commercial and  
\$30 billion will  
be government.

Agency for International Development told CBS News that Hurricane Mitch [death toll: 10,000] was a "classic greenhouse effect." One hopes USAID knows better and is merely engaging in White House huckstering.

In 1974, Hurricane Fifi killed the same proportion of the (then smaller) population of Honduras. In 1971, Hurricane Edith plowed into Honduras as a Category 5 blaster. In 1955, Hurricane Janet, another Category 5 storm, hit a couple of hundred

miles south of where Edith landed.

Who gains here? Rumors persist that Vice President Gore has been advised to make global warming a central theme of his presidential run in 2000. Threatening hundreds of thousands with imminent drowning unless they vote for him is a crude but probably effective trick.

— PATRICK J. MICHAEL  
*The Washington Times*,  
December 17, 1998

### ■ Why interfere?

I agree that marijuana laws are long overdue for an overhaul. I also favor the medical use of marijuana — if it's prescribed by a physician. I cannot understand why the federal government should interfere with the doctor-patient relationship, nor why it would ignore the will of a majority of voters who have legally approved such legislation.

— ABIGAIL VANBUREN  
"Dear Abby," March 1, 1999

### ■ Federalized failure

The avalanche of new laws Congress has passed since 1970 to make America's streets safe has failed, a report concludes.

"There is no persuasive evidence that federalization of local crime makes the streets safer for American citizens," says a report prepared by a blue ribbon task force sponsored by the American Bar Association and chaired by former Attorney General Edwin Meese III.

The 16-member task force says a Congress worried about being called "soft on crime" ac-

tually may be hurting the fight against violence by passing federal laws that duplicate state and local efforts nationwide.

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS  
February 17, 1999

### ■ No civil libertarian

Clinton may be a libertine, but he's no civil libertarian. In his 1996 anti-terrorism bill, he restricted rights of habeas corpus, which allow prisoners to challenge their imprisonment. He has pushed for increased wiretapping powers for the FBI.

Clinton's new budget includes more than \$1 billion to improve computer security, and \$250 million over six years to fund 10 military SWAT teams to help civilian authorities respond to terrorist attacks on our soil. Just what America needs — more SWAT teams, and military ones, even though the military has traditionally been barred from civilian police work.

"We're going to have to reconcile how much we're willing to give up in the way of our individual liberties in order to be secure," said [Secretary of Defense William] Cohen in a speech in December.

We may be giving up far too much and not feeling secure at all.

— ROB MORSE  
*The San Francisco Examiner*,  
February 2, 1999

### ■ Pragmatic approach

Since President Ronald Reagan began escalating the "war on drugs," worldwide production of opium has expanded. The price of heroin has dropped and its purity has increased steadily. We cannot seem to make a dent in the supply, hence availability, of heroin.

Our efforts to reduce the demand for drugs have fared no better than our efforts to reduce drug supplies. Today's young adults were in grade school when Nancy Reagan began telling them to "just say no." Over and over, in the schools and on television, they have been warned about drugs' dangers. Yet for

nearly a decade, drug use among adolescents has been rising.

Like it or not, we cannot seal our borders or completely eliminate demand for drugs, no matter how much money the government is willing to spend. Moral indignation will not change that reality. A more pragmatic approach would be to learn to live with drugs, as we do with alcohol, and to focus on the reduction of drug-related harm.

— MARSHA ROSENBAUM  
*Newsday* (New York),  
February 17, 1999

### ■ Has everyone forgotten?

President Clinton's State of the Union address [was] longer than the letters I used to write to Santa Claus. "And I ask Congress to support our bold new plan, etc., etc. . . ." Query: Just how many laws do we need?

It isn't just that Mr. Clinton's myriad proposals have no authorization in the Constitution. Most of them won't be adopted anyway; they were meant as applause lines. The trouble is that Congress did applaud.

It isn't just that the federal government shouldn't be doing all these things; neither should the states or the counties or cities or townships. Has everyone forgotten that every increase in the scope of government is necessarily a further limitation on freedom, a further growth in power over the citizen, a further rise in taxes?

Government, as our first president reminded us, is not persuasion or reason; it is force. Government doesn't produce anything. It can only compel. Every benefit for you ultimately has to be taken from me, and vice versa.

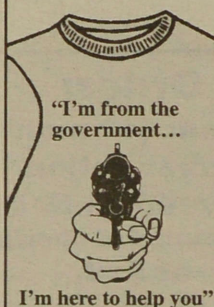
— JOSEPH SOBRAN  
*The Washington Times*,  
February 5, 1999

### ■ The joys of serfdom

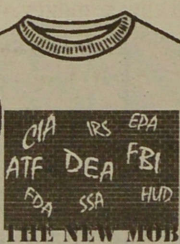
According to the Tax Foundation, taxes now consume more than 38% of the average family's budget. That is more than is spent on food, clothing, housing, and transportation combined. Compare this to the plight of medieval serfs. They only had to give the lord of the manor one-third of their output — and they were considered slaves. So what does that make us?

— DANIEL MITCHELL  
*The Washington Times*,  
March 9, 1999

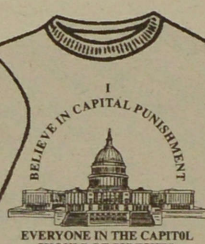
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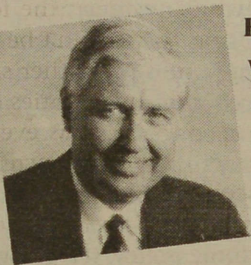
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# AFFILIATE NEWS

## Reasons to oppose Goals 2000 and playing with Plastic People

### ■ California

What do Plastic People of the Universe and Hello I'm a Truck have in common?

They're both rock-'n-roll bands interested in liberty — and they performed together for the first time in Los Angeles on March 13.

Plastic People of the Universe, a band from Czechoslovakia on their first tour of the U.S., "are credited with sparking what would eventually become the Velvet Revolution and the downfall of Communism," said LP member **Jason Heath**. "They were persecuted by the state on a consistent basis from their founding in 1968 until the overthrow. Vaclav Havel, among others, considers them an important influence and inspiration."

Plastic People performed at the Spaceland club with the band Hello I'm a Truck — which includes Heath as a member. In his introductory speech, Heath touched on "many libertarian ideals and examples of our own government's attempts to limit our freedom and expression," and paid tribute to Plastic People, who "are true heroes," he said.

When not playing with his band, Heath was the Libertarian Party's Congressional candidate in California's 34th District last November.

### ■ Colorado

Republicans who claim they want to cut back government received a how-to manual from Libertarians in February when LP Legislative Director **Judd Ptak** offered Governor Bill Owens a list of "Do's and Don'ts."

"Do cut taxes, and start by wiping out one tax completely, along with the bureaucracy that collects it," Ptak wrote in an open letter.

"Do deliver on your promise to improve transportation, but not on the backs of taxpayers. And do support the right of juries to vote their conscience."

But . . . "Don't sign any budget that's not at least a penny smaller than the current one. Don't sign a bill banning gay marriage, and don't sign a budget that has a single cent for implementing a national ID card."



### Immigration: Morality and economics

**J**acob "Bumper" Hornberger gave an impassioned defense of open immigration in a debate at the National Press Building in Washington, DC — arguing that "there are two reasons why we should have open borders in the United States: Morality and economics."

On February 10, Hornberger — the president of the Arlington, Virginia-based Future of Freedom Foundation and a potential candidate for the Libertarian Party's 2000 presidential nomination — debated Virginia Abernathy, a professor of Anthropology at Vanderbilt University, before a crowd of about 100 people.

"Immigration is the heritage of America," said Hornberger. "It's time to recapture the principles on which this country was founded. We ought to be leading the world in open immigration and friendships among people."

By contrast, Abernathy argued that immigration creates more pressure for government services, lowers the quality of life, and creates job losses among poor Americans.

But Hornberger dismissed those arguments, saying immigration "would be the biggest [economic] boom this country has ever seen." And, he charged, current immigration control policies result in "death and repatriation" — which is why open immigration is the only moral position.

### ■ Florida

Hear that "CHA-CHING! CHA-CHING!" noise? That's the sound of state and local governments depositing the profits from a proposed "privacy-invasive/money-making scheme," charge Florida Libertarians.

In late February, the state LP voiced opposition to two bills — HB 335 and SB 266 — that would allow municipalities to install automatic "traffic-infraction detector" devices. The devices take photographs of offending cars' license plates, and local police issue a traffic citation by mail.

"Putting cameras up at intersections is bad precedent, down-

right Orwellian, and a step in the wrong direction," said **William Gene Cole**, a Florida LP Regional Director.

According to the bills, the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles would get a share of the profits for the tickets, which means the program "may be just an easy, convenient way for state and local governments to make money," said Cole.

"People who run red lights are dangerous, and we all want safer streets — but not for the sake of funding state agencies and local law-enforcement, and not at the cost of lost privacy."

### ■ Florida

A new plan to "save" the Everglades and completely revamp the water delivery system for South Florida will cost at least \$7.8 billion and "will give enormous power to unelected bureaucrats" — which is why local Libertarians have organized to stop it.

"You must not risk the lives, the property, and the livelihoods of millions of South Florida citizens on this expensive, grandiose, and unproven experiment," **Tom Regnier**, Vice Chairman of the Florida LP, told the South Florida Water Management District in West Palm Beach on February 10.

Despite testimony by Regnier and Citizens for a Sound Economy, the project — which will cost every local family at least \$120 per year for 20 years, and has never been subject to peer scientific review about its workability — was approved unanimously by the board.

"We had fully expected this, but this is only one battle lost. Now they have to get the legislature and Congress to give them the money. That's where the next battles will be," said Regnier, who promised that Libertarians would continue to "do all we can to stop this government boondoggle."

### ■ Georgia

In an attempt to bring a proposed fuel tax hike to a screeching halt, Forsyth County Libertarians reacted immediately when the County Commission passed a pro-tax resolution on January 18.

"It's no wonder we have so many businesses collapse in their first year when trying to comply with all the government regulations and taxes — this fuel tax affects small businesses who can least afford it," LP Vice Chair **Pat Scheibel** wrote in a statement that received page one coverage in the local paper.

Then, to counter claims that the tax hike is needed for road repairs, the LP pointed out that "Georgia roads have been ranked some of the best in the nation in conjunction with one of the lowest fuel taxes. Therefore, there's no need to impose a higher tax."

### ■ Maine

State Libertarians are preparing for the first round of a legal battle to overturn Maine's so-called "Clean Elections Act" (CEA) — a law they charge favors the "lawyer-class and incumbents."

In June, the Maine LP should get its first court hearing in a lawsuit to overturn the CEA, an initiative passed by voters in 1996 that restricts the amount of money candidates can raise and

provides government subsidies for campaigns.

Libertarians oppose the law, said **Mark Cenci**, Maine LP State Chair, because it will make smaller-party candidates less competitive.

"We object to the restrictions on our ability to raise money," he said. "We are the minor voices, we are the group that must speak louder in order to be heard and remembered. We also oppose the increased reporting requirements, the increased fines, and the involvement of tax money in elections."

The Maine LP filed their lawsuit in 1997.

### ■ Maryland

Extinguish a proposed tobacco tax increase: That's the message state Libertarians delivered to the Maryland Senate Budget and Taxation Committee on February 17.

LP State Chair **Steve Boone** testified in person against a bill that would increase cigarette taxes by \$1.00 and generate an estimated \$157 million annually in new tax revenue.

Using the novel angle that he was "a non-smoker who hates tobacco smoke, but will stand up for someone else's rights as long as they're not hurting anyone else," Boone told the committee: "This bill is a bad bill. It's bad economic policy, it's bad practical policy, and it's bad for Maryland."

Boone argued that the tax increase would "encourage people to smuggle," was an "open door invitation to organized crime elements," and that, "raising sin taxes to cut a particular sin rarely, if ever, works."

Boone said the testimony "offered a high-profile chance to get into the fray and get some recognition [for the state LP]." Now, he said, state Libertarians will "be following up with some tobaccoists and retail beverage folks whose livelihoods depend a lot on tobacco."

### ■ Michigan

Ionia County LP Chairman **Richard Whitelock** has filed a lawsuit to protect property owners from a tax that violates the Michigan constitution.

On November 24, he filed a suit to nullify the library tax, which would cost every property owner an average of \$750.

Whitelock's argument: The constitution allows only property owners to vote on property tax increases that will last more than five years. But the county allowed non-property owners to vote on the 20-year tax in August — which squeaked through by 31 votes.

"Dick believes the violation wasn't intentional but was done



out of ignorance," said **Keith Edwards**, editor of *Michigan Liberty*. "He's a veteran of activism — and a veteran in defending Libertarian principles."

## ■ Minnesota

The federal government's School to Work and Goals 2000 education programs treat children as "human-resource capital," said LP State Chair **Charles Test** in testimony to the House Education Committee — and the state legislature should protect Minnesota children by withdrawing from those programs.

On January 26, Test spoke against HF15, a bill that would make minor modifications to those programs. Instead, he urged legislators to reject them entirely because they would create an educational system "whose potential for abuse is virtually unchecked."

Both programs, he said, "exceed the constitutional limits of both state and federal authority," which is why the "Libertarian Party opposes implementation" of them.

Test noted that the programs describe children as "human-resource capital," and empower the state to create a "seamless system of education and workforce preparation for all learners, tied to the needs of a competitive economic marketplace."

The solution? "We call for withdrawal of Minnesota from the federal Goals 2000 and School to Work programs. It is about integrity. It is about resisting the temptation of federal funding. It is about resisting unchecked power of the federal government," he said.

## ■ New York

Using a loophole in federal law, an LP activist is trying to make the government "squirm" by filing a request to market marijuana cigarettes for recreational use.

In February, **Robert Goodman** filed a notification with the Food & Drug Administration, arguing that marijuana is a "substantially equivalent device to the analogous tobacco products."

His strategy: Use a federal rule — called a 501(k) — that says "substantially equivalent" products have to be treated equally. Since the FDA now claims that tobacco is a "drug delivery sys-

tem" that it is allowed to regulate, equivalent products should be automatically approved for sale by the agency.

"If the products are substantially equivalent, then there would be no legal reason for them to be subject to different FDA regulations," said Goodman. "If one can be sold, so can the other."

Does he think his request will be granted? He's not sure — but "I'm going to make them squirm," he said.

## ■ New York

Are Libertarians ready for prime time?

Yes — prime time radio. **Bob Schulz**, the party's 1994 candidate for governor, has started hosting an afternoon drive show in Albany that will give a forum to libertarian ideas.

"I'll be spotlighting the New York Constitution, its principles and history," said Schulz. "I'll also demonstrate that the way government is working is in sharp contrast to the way it was designed to work."

Schulz's show, which began in February, can be heard on radio station WROW-AM 590 from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm, Monday through Friday. It can also be heard over the Internet at [www.wrow.com](http://www.wrow.com)

# CHARLES TEST on Goals 2000: "It is about resisting the temptation of federal funding."

## ■ North Carolina

A proposal for a new state lottery shows that politicians are "addicted to spending" and are about to get addicted to gambling, charged the state LP.

"Can we trust politicians with another monopoly on vice?" asked State Chair **Sean Haugh**, who blasted the proposal in a February 8 statement. "We're urging them to seek professional help for their spending addiction instead of finding ways to enable it further."

Haugh took special aim at Democratic supporters of the lottery, citing a report showing that it redistributes money from the poor toward the middle class.

"Progressives usually lead the fight against regressive taxes, and this is as regressive as they get," he said.

## ■ Ohio

Libertarians in Toledo, Ohio are weighing whether to launch an impeachment drive against the city's mayor, who is trying to sharply curtail citizens' Second Amendment rights.

Libertarians **Galen Fries**, **Dr. LeRoy Lloyd**, and **Duane Arquette** are floating a trial recall petition, and trying to decide if there is widespread public interest in a recall effort.

The petition charges that the "arrogant" Mayor Carleton Finkbeiner is "pursuing legislation of gun control that is bluntly unconstitutional."

Finkbeiner and the Toledo City Council are currently conducting public hearings on multiple gun control ordinances — including proposals to require handgun registration, to ban possession of "Saturday Night Specials," and to allow prosecution if children gain access to guns without trigger locks.

Libertarians charged that the proposals would result in litigation that could cost the city millions of dollars, and would "make criminals out of ordinary, law-abiding citizens."

"This campaign is taking on legs of its own," said Lloyd. "This could be the biggest thing we have ever done!"

Fries is the Chair of the

Lucas/Wood LP, Lloyd handles media for the Northwest Libertarians, and Arquette is a co-chair of People Organized to Rein-In Kickbacks (PORK), a group that helped defeat a Toledo Port Authority tax last year.

## ■ Texas

Texas Libertarians have determined their top legislative priority for 1999: Fighting a bill that Democrats and Republicans claim will "streamline" the state constitution — but is actually a "brazen power grab."

"This bill would create an income tax, curb gun rights, fuel pork barrel spending and, most tellingly, grant the state government — and not individuals — all rights not specifically enumerated in the Constitution," **David Eagle**, the LP's press secretary for the campaign, said on February 5. "We are so outraged by this bill that defeating it is our top priority for the current legislative session."

The LP has set up a website to analyze the bill and educate citizens about alternatives.

"The goal is not only to ensure that this bill does not pass, but to send the message that Texans will only support a streamlining effort that doesn't undermine our freedom," said **Robert "Rock" Howard**.



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# THE ISSUES

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

## DNA database: Invasive and unconstitutional

**A** new federal proposal to collect DNA samples from every one arrested for any crime is a dangerous expansion of government power that blurs the distinction between the innocent and the guilty, the Libertarian Party warned.

"This proposal would turn America into a nation of suspects," said LP national chairman David Bergland. "It would subject millions of legally innocent people to an invasive, unconstitutional search. And it would allow the government to keep track of your most personal genetic information."

In early March, Attorney General Janet Reno ordered a federal commission to study the legality of collecting DNA samples from every one of the estimated 15.3 million Americans who are arrested annually for any misdemeanor or felony.

The government already maintains a DNA database of convicted murderers, rapists, and child molesters, but this new proposal represents the first time the federal government has sought the power to collect genetic material from people never convicted of any crime.

"People who have neither been charged with nor convicted of any crime should have the same rights as any other American — including the right not to have their genetic information included in some government database," said Bergland.

## Student snitch plan shows warped values

**A** plan by three Oregon high schools to pay \$1,000 bounties to teenagers who anonymously turn in other students on drug charges is a morally reprehensible program that will turn high schools into "schools for snitches," the Libertarian Party charged.

"This is the first step towards turning America's teenagers into paid informants for the government," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national chairman. "Are these really the kinds of values and skills we want to teach our young people?"

Starting in February, students in three high school districts in Portland, Oregon, will be paid up to \$1,000 for snitching on fellow students who use drugs or alcohol on school property.

But Libertarians say the program charts a direct line to a new McCarthyism, where teenagers will live in fear of being turned in — rightly or wrongly — to the authorities by anonymous informers eager for a cash reward.

"This turn-in-your-friends-for-cash scheme at Judas Iscariot High School is a stark example of how Drug Prohibition has warped the morals of this nation," said Dasbach. "Instead of treating drug abuse as a medical problem that requires concern and compassion, this program treats drug abuse as an opportunity to earn 30 pieces of silver by ratting on your schoolmates."

## New York City: Behaving like a stolen car ring

**T**he Libertarian Party is suggesting a nationwide boycott of New York City until the city repeals a controversial new law which allows police to seize the cars of people arrested for — but not convicted of — drunk driving.

"Mayor Rudy Giuliani and the New York City government need to be taught a lesson: If you steal people's cars, you will be punished," said Dasbach. "And the best way to punish them is to dry up the flow of tourist and business dollars into the city."

"If you go to New York City now, you'll send the message that you approve of the city government behaving like a stolen car ring," he said.

In early March, Giuliani announced that under asset forfeiture laws, city police would start seizing the cars of people arrested for suspicion of drunk driving. Even if that person is found not guilty, the city may still keep the car, said Giuliani.

"The Big Apple is in the grip of a crime wave, and the criminals are sitting in City Hall," said Dasbach. "The fact is, the city is now too dangerous to visit. After all, what can you do when the police steal your car: Call 911 and report it to the police?"

# Randall's Champion Land fight

Continued from Page 1

rolls were not just *accepting* the inevitable as they professed — but were, in fact, *promoting* a fascist agenda set for them.

I am not at all sure that it was a conscious promotion, as much as it is the willingness to acquiesce to *anything* — as long as they think they will look good to the voters back home.

It is a classic example of an addiction to power. And the longer they have served and the more power they have accumulated, the greater the addiction.

The issue involved became known as the Champion Land Deal. It involved 133,000 acres of woodland in the "Northeast Kingdom" of Vermont.

## Acreage for sale

The Champion Paper Company announced that this acreage was for sale because they planned to end their paper-making operations in the Northeast.

This announcement did not cause any great concern amongst the citizens. None of the company's paper mills were located in Vermont, so any job loss in the state was seen as minimal.

Thus began one of the greatest public relations campaigns I have ever witnessed.

A news conference was called to announce that the Vermont Conservation Fund had signed an agreement to purchase the 133,000 acres.

The Fund's spokesman, Darby Bradley, said they were not purchasing the land to simply hold — but to make sure that it "remained in private ownership" (except for some "environmentally fragile areas" which would become the property of the state and federal governments.)

The purpose of the purchase, he said, was to ensure that "traditional uses" of the land would be preserved forever for citizens. Logging would be a protected use to furnish jobs, and hunting, fishing, hiking, and snowmobiling would all be protected.

## Good things

Since most of the land was to be resold into private ownership, the Conservation Fund only needed \$4.5 million from the state of Vermont to do all of these good things.

The news media immedi-

## NEIL RANDALL:

*"The longer they serve, the greater their addiction."*

ately created a chorus of praise with news articles, editorials, and newscasts. The governor wrote an open letter to the Speaker of the House proclaiming it the "opportunity of a lifetime," and said he would include the \$4.5 million in his supplemental budget request when the legislature convened in January. (The money would come from the so-called \$70 million "surplus.")

The largest newspaper in the state named Darby Bradley "Man of the Year" for all he was doing

for the state. Thus was the stage set and the avalanche in motion when the legislature convened on January 6, 1999.

It should be noted here that I ran for Representative not only on the Libertarian ballot but also on the Republican ballot. (This was a strategic decision in order not to split the vote against the Democratic incumbent.) I caucus with the Republicans and vote with them in matters of the organization of the House.

## Voting advantage

In the House, the Democrats enjoy an 11-seat advantage — but, in reality, they enjoy a much greater voting advantage, since many Republicans are in tune with the socialist agenda advanced by the Democrats.

Two committees would take up the Champion issue: The Ap-

See **NOT DEAL AWAY** Page 11

## A novel of intrigue about reshaping America.



One man stumbles on a plot to take over the U.S. government by a high-tech means without the public even realizing there has been a takeover. Then he learns that a murder has already been committed to protect the secrecy of the plot—and that his own life is now in danger as well as the future of the nation! How he saves himself is a lesson in the power of moral action, and his solution for saving the U.S. will be of interest to everyone concerned about the future of this country.

Although the story line is fiction, all of the laws, regulations and examples of people being victimized by their own government in this book are real—even their real names are used. All of the historical references to the Constitution, the Founding Fathers, and quotations from them are also nonfiction, as are the reforms proposed in the book.

"This reviewer rarely reads fiction books, but was so impressed with Contoski's nonfiction title, *Makers and Takers*, that I ordered *The Trojan Project*, a novel about one man's discovery of a computer 'virus' that affects people as it spreads through the nation's telephone network....*The Trojan Project* is a gripping tale of intrigue. Should [the hero] expose the secret project [to manipulate the virus to take control of the U.S. government] or should he collaborate...to use the virus to reform America? That is the question. Contoski here takes advantage of his environmental, investment and economics expertise, incorporating vast information into how America could be reformed, by including real problems of the government today—laws, facts and experiences of real people. The story has a surprise ending and is a lesson in moral action as well. While *The Trojan Project* is touted as a novel of intrigue, it can also be classified as a 'factional' book."

—A. Heath Jarrett, editor *Jarrett's Journal*

"*The Trojan Project* is entertaining, informative, and engaging. Easy to pick up, and hard to put down, *The Trojan Project* grips the reader from page one and won't let go!"

—Midwest Book Review

"*The Trojan Project* plays out significant political arguments in a fictional format that often makes their points and states their positions more clearly than many a dusty tome of political science."

—Diane Donovan (former book review editor for the *Chicago Tribune*) in *Reviewers Bookwatch*

"There is plenty of suspense and mystery to keep the reader involved and libertarian philosophy is sprinkled liberally throughout. Upon finishing *The Trojan Project* the reader has been through an intriguing novel and a short course in how our government started and how we got where we are."—Rich Osness in *Minnesota Libertarian*

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# "I will not deal away the rights of the people"

Continued from Page 10

propriations Committee, which would consider the \$4.5 million as part of a supplemental appropriation bill, and the Fish/Wildlife & Water Resources Committee, to which I am assigned. This committee is chaired by Republicans and has a Republican majority. The chairman is known as a protector of trappers' rights.

This committee met on January 12. Immediately, the chairman called in Darby Bradley and state agency department heads to explain the details of the deal — and to see how the "traditional uses" would be protected.

I told the chairman that I was very much opposed to this intrusion on private property rights, and that I thought the committee should oppose it.

## Run over

The chairman said he was not in favor of it either, but there was nothing he could do. It was a "done deal," he said, and there was no point in standing against it and being run over. Instead, we had to make sure that the "traditional uses" were protected.

So began three weeks of testimony. I was the only one to question the deal from the standpoint that

it was an infringement of the right of private property, and the only one to argue that we should not spend \$4.5 million of the wages of Vermonters. After my questions, the subject always returned to "traditional uses."

Almost no private-sector testimony was taken except from Fish and Game Clubs.

The committee's vice-chair, who is from the Northeast Kingdom, tried to get public hearings held in that region on January 17. This would be the day before the Appropriation Committee was due to submit their proposal to the House floor.

But the chairman argued that we might not know enough about the details of the deal by then to answer the hard questions we might be asked at such a public hearing. In the end, only the vice-chair and I voted for the public hearing.

Essentially the deal proposed by the Conservation Fund was this: The federal government would purchase 26,000 acres of "environmentally sensitive" land. The state would purchase easements on 85,000 acres to

protect "traditional uses." These easements would be on the title to the property.

That 85,000 acres would then be sold to private owners. If the state purchased these easements, the Mellon Foundation would purchase the remaining 22,000 acres and donate it to the state for the purpose of protecting its sensitive environment.

At the January 26 House Republican caucus, I felt certain that some aspect of the multi-million dollar Appropriations Bill would be discussed, since we had not done so previously. I thought it might be a chance to discuss removing the \$4.5 million from the budget.

But the Appropriation Bill never came up. Instead, the head of the State House recycling effort gave a presentation and informed us which color paper to put in which basket. Meeting adjourned. I sat in naive disbelief.

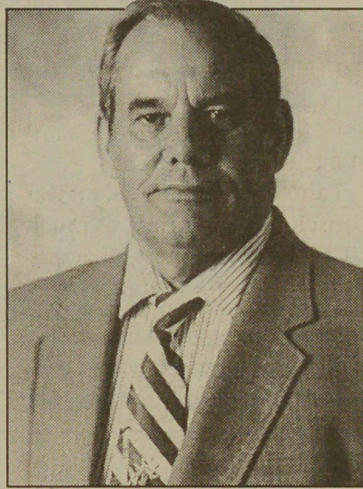
Later, the Assistant Minority Leader came around and asked if the easements had real assurances of "traditional uses" —

and whether I would support the appropriation. I informed him I would not.

It was now very apparent to me that nobody was going to offer an amendment to

delete the \$4.5 million from the Appropriations Bill.

I then teamed up with a Republican freshman who had expressed outrage at this intrusion on property rights. We decided to draft an amendment to H-130,



■ Neil Randall: This bill is "not just the expenditure of \$4.5 million of Vermonters' earnings, but it is also the expenditure of their liberty."

the appropriations bill, to delete the \$4.5 million. Joined by two other Republicans, we presented it to the Speaker's office.

I had been informed by a lobbyist that the Republican leadership told her that they were not going to oppose H-130 because it was a "done deal" — and that they didn't want to appear negative on everything.

## Intended to squash

I had assumed from that that they were going to be passive. It now dawned on me that this was erroneous. They had simply been laying low, watching for any resistance to develop, which they then intended to squash.

That evening, they called a joint caucus with the Democrats in the well of the House, "so we would all have the same information about the Champion Land Deal when we voted." Who furnished the information? The same Darby Bradley and the entourage of bureaucrats I had

heard in committee for three weeks. Testimony from the private sector was not welcome.

The next day, H-130 came to the floor for the second reading. It was scheduled for a final vote on March 2nd.

On, March 1, I received a call to be in committee early on March 2. When we convened, the Chairman announced that he had come up with "stronger language" for the easements, as an amendment to H-130. At the other end of the table sat the Governor's right-hand man, who said the Governor approved of the new language.

## Skids to slide

This was voted out of committee 8 to 1. I was the only dissenter. I informed the Chairman that I resented the committee being used as "skids to slide the legislation through."

On the floor of the House, my committee's amendment was passed by voice vote.

Our amendment to strike the \$4.5 million was taken up, and I gave a speech to the House.

I told them, "Being new to this house, I am not wise to its ways. Having little formal education, and being neither a lawyer or doctor, I am not versed in the crafting of my words and phrases to disguise my motives. Nor do I desire to do so.

"I speak plainly and I speak and vote according to my conscience and my oath to uphold the Constitution of this state and the United States of America.

"I will not deal away the inalienable rights of the people. I will not be intimidated by the threat of being charged with incivility because I disagree. My promise to the voters was that I

would expend my total effort to reduce the looting of their earnings and to oppose the micro-management of their lives.

"The issue before us today is not just the expenditure of their earnings but also the right to private ownership of property.

"I have sat for hours upon hours listening to our self-appointed saviors explain the details of this deal and expand upon the horrors that would befall the public if the right to private property is not infringed, always backed up by a cadre of bureaucrats.

"But we have not heard from the people.

"Ever mindful that this is not just the expenditure of \$4.5 million of hard-working Vermonters' earnings, but it is also the expenditure of their liberty. I implore you: Do not force this yoke upon them."

During my speech, I was interrupted with a point-of-order, which questioned if my argument was germane. The speaker ruled that it was and I continued.

When I finished, a member asked that the speech be entered in the House Journal. That request was voted down.

The voice vote on our amendment was overwhelmingly against.

## Roll call vote

We called for a roll call vote so people would have to be counted for the record. We received 19 votes.

An amendment was then offered to delay approval of the \$4.5 million until after public hearings. It gained only 46 votes. Those voting against it included the Chairman of the Fish-Wildlife Committee.

The lesson I have learned in my first two months in office? *Beware of those who have their hands on the levers of power.*

**"DURING MY speech, I was questioned if my argument was germane."**

## NJ Libertarians get \$12,500 for illegal Tax Day arrest

In April 1996, New Jersey Libertarians John Paff and Timothy Konek handed out "Million Dollar Bills" during a Tax Day protest at a local Post Office.

And in February 1999, they were handed a check for \$12,500 from the East Brunswick township government for arresting them during that protest.

The money was a settlement for a federal civil rights lawsuit filed by Paff and Konek, charging that East Brunswick police had falsely arrested them — and illegally impounded Konek's car — while they were exercising their Constitutional right of free speech at a legitimate political protest.

## JOHN PAFF:

**"I wish there was a way to hold public officials responsible."**

Paff and Konek had been arrested outside the Cranbury Road Post Office for handing out mock million-dollar-bill literature as part of the LP's annual nationwide anti-tax protest.

They were jailed for six hours

on charges of "defiant trespass" until they each raised \$5,000 cash bail — despite the fact that the courts have held that political protest on Post Office property is not a crime, as long as it doesn't interfere with customers.

## Didn't have a case

After four court appearances, the prosecutor conceded that the town didn't have a case and dismissed the charges. In response, Paff and Konek filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the township.

A federal judge agreed their rights had been violated, and ordered the township to pay the Libertarians \$12,500 in damages,

plus \$25,000 in lawyers fees.

"I'm glad the judge ruled in our favor, but I'm sorry that the taxpayers have to pay," said Paff, who is the chairman of the LP of Somerset & Middlesex Counties. "I wish there was a way to hold public officials personally responsible for the harm they cause."

In the same ruling, the federal judge immunized the arresting officer from the false arrest, malicious prosecutions, and related federal civil rights claims arising out of the arrest.

Paff and Konek said they will appeal that portion of the ruling to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia.



## Corrections

■ In the March 1999 LP News, the names were reversed in the photograph of LP National Director Steve Dasbach and talk show host Gary Nolan (page 1). Dasbach is actually on the right.

■ In the same issue, an incorrect network was given for Penn & Teller's Sin City Spectacular show ("Friends of Liberty," page 14). Their show actually appears on the FX cable network.

# North Carolina LP member faces legalization harassment

**A** North Carolina Libertarian has charged that he is the victim of persecution by his town's government because he is a supporter of industrial hemp and medical marijuana.

LP member Kenneth Griffin said town officials in Lewiston-Woodville shut down his video arcade business and his mother's ice cream parlor — all because they don't want someone who "believes marijuana should be legal" running a business.

"The town council and police department illegally harassed our businesses and even wrote new ordinances to make it impossible for us to operate a profitable business," he said.

Griffin's problems began a few years ago when he opened a video arcade.

"[Griffin] ran quickly afoul of local authorities [by] selling industrial hemp products, and by displaying a poster advocating legalizing medical marijuana, as

**KENNETH GRIFFIN:**  
*The town council  
"destroyed me  
and my family."*

well as LP literature on ending the drug war," said North Carolina LP State Chair Sean Haugh.

In response, town officials quickly passed several new ordinances — limiting when Griffin could be open for business; banning any "loud noises;" and sharply restricting the presence of minors in the arcade.

"Many citizens and business owners asked the town council and police department for a justification for these ordinances," said Griffin. "No reason was given other than the town council has a right to pass any ordinance they feel is necessary to ensure public safety."

## Rationale emerged

However, the rationale behind the new laws eventually emerged, said Griffin. When asked by a local resident about the ordinances, one town council member supposedly admitted, "We don't want a game room operator who believes marijuana should be legal."

Eventually, his business was shut down by town officials — even though he was never served with a single citation for violating any local ordinance.

"I even begged the police to write me a ticket if I'm violating a law so that I might be able to get in front of a judge to explain my story, but after almost nine months, not one ticket [was] written," he said.

After his arcade was closed, he moved his video games into his mother's ice cream parlor. Almost immediately, his business license was arbitrarily revoked.

"The town council and police department have financially and emotionally destroyed me and my family," said Griffin. "Our businesses are now closed and irreversible damage has been done to both of them."

## Classic case

Haugh said the Griffin case is a classic demonstration of the power of local governments.

"Thought crime is alive and well in the town of Lewiston-Woodville," he said. "[Griffin's] great offense against society? [He] has publicly advocated the legalization of marijuana."

"While Libertarians often point to the federal government as the main source of our loss of liberty, the truth is that local governments are more capable of implementing oppressive policies against people who exercise their basic rights."

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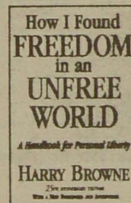
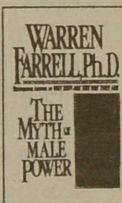
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— **Jan Helfeld (Virginia LP)**



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# Know Your Customer: It's not quite dead yet

Continued from Page 1

astonishing 8,563 signatures a day on an electronic petition against the regulation — or 67.7% of all the comments received by the FDIC.

"The success of our Defend YourPrivacy.com website shows that the computer mouse is mightier than the musket, and that the World Wide Web is the political organizing tool of the 21st Century," said Dasbach.

## The New York Times

The LP's high-tech campaign against Know Your Customer was cited in such publications as the *New York Times*, the *Arizona Republic*, *WorldNetDaily.com*, and *Investors Business Daily*.

The DefendYourPrivacy.com site explained the Know Your Customer regulation; allowed voters to send e-mail comments directly to the FDIC; and let people notify others about the site via e-mail, starting a "chain



■ LP Press Secretary George Getz steadies a stack of boxes — containing just a fraction of the 253,000 Know Your Customer comments — while visiting the FDIC headquarters on March 5.

reaction" that picked up steam as the days passed.

As the tidal wave of comments against Know Your Customer mounted, politicians started deciding that they, too, opposed the regulation.

In early March, by an 88-0 vote, the U.S. Senate expressed

"support" for a measure directing the FDIC to drop the proposed rules. But a bill to give that measure the force of law was blocked by Senate Democrats.

That same week, the House Banking Committee adopted an amendment to a financial services bill that would kill Know

Your Customer. However, a broader amendment filed by Congressman Ron Paul (R-TX) that would have prohibited any federal agency from implementing any similar bank spying rule was defeated.

Also, only two of the four agencies that sponsored Know Your Customer have said the regulation should be scrapped. While both the FDIC and the Comptroller of the Currency have spoken against the regulation, neither the Office of Thrift Supervision nor the Federal Reserve has taken a public position.

## A "policy"

In addition, an FDIC spokesman had stated previously that the agency might withdraw the regulation, but implement Know Your Customer-style requirements as a "policy."

That's why it's too soon to claim that Know Your Customer is definitely DOA, said Dasbach.

"Know Your Customer is wounded, but it isn't dead yet," he said. "Even if they decide to kill it, the same bureaucrats and politicians who first proposed this dangerous regulation could quietly bring it back after the public outcry has subsided."

And that's why Libertarians will stay vigilant, said Dasbach — and already have a back-up plan in place.

"Depending on what is announced at the FDIC's March 23 meeting, we are prepared to mount a lobbying campaign in favor of HR 516, sponsored by Congressman Ron Paul," he said.

HR 516 and two related bills would prohibit the FDIC and other federal agencies from implementing Know Your Customer, would repeal other federal banking regulations, and would open up federal financial files to the public.

"Know Your Customer is a disease that threatens our freedom. HR 516 is the cure," said Dasbach. "With HR 516, we have the opportunity to kill this invasion of privacy permanently."

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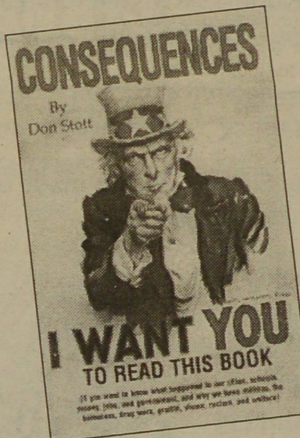
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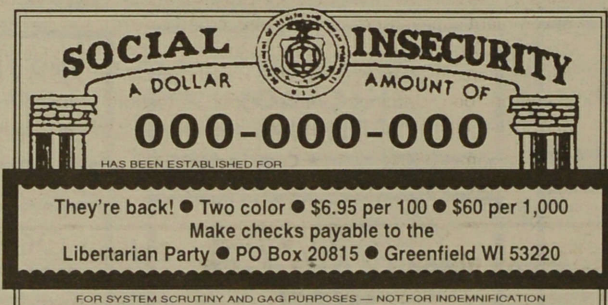
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# LITERATURE BUTTONS & MUCH MORE!

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■ **Ain't Nobody's Business If You Do** by Peter McWilliams. The definitive argument against "consensual crimes," packed with facts, quotes, and statistics. Paperback, 693 pages. **Cost:** \$9.95

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

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

■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 7th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues; contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

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

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■ **LP Program.** 4 pages, blue ink. LP positions on education, jobs, political corruption, health care, and crime — plus solutions. **Cost:** Sample: \$1.00 or \$10 for 100

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

## Bumperstickers

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

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

■ **Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian** (Blue & white; LP address and phone # below.)

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

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

## Buttons

**Cost:** \$1 each or 75¢ each for 5 or more

■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-682-1776

## Miscellaneous Items

■ **Libertarian Party stickers.** Size: 5/8" x 2-1/8". (Red and blue.) Text: "Tired of big government & high taxes? Call the Libertarian Party." Includes LP 800#. **Cost:** Four sheets (96 stickers) for \$1. Or 25 sheets (600): \$5

■ **Windbreaker.** Blue, with LP logo & party name. Available in M, L, XL. (Please specify.) **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Liberty Teddy Bear:** 12" high. Brown bear, blue shirt: "Liberty Bear" on front. **Cost:** \$20.

## Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (Not broadcast quality.) **Cost:** \$20.00 each

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

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

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

## Large & Small Banners

■ **Small Banner.** (12" x 5'). White on blue. One line: "Libertarian Party." **Cost:** \$25 each

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White on blue. First line "Libertarian Party." You choose second line: ★ "800-682-1776" ★ "Defenders of Liberty." **Cost:** \$40 each

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## HOW TO ORDER:

■ The "\$1,000,000 Bills" are available for immediate shipment. **Cost: \$5 per 100.** (Call for rush shipping details.)

■ Or, order the complete "\$1 Million Tax Day" Kit (16-page how-to booklet; printable original artwork; 50 \$1m samples): **\$10.** (The \$1 Million Tax Day Kit will be sent via Priority Mail.)

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES



■ **Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?** Brochure, 2-color (violet & black). Introductory brochure; gives a general, friendly overview of Libertarian Party beliefs. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

## Yard Sign

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

■ **Towards A More Sensible Drug Policy.** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Argues that drug legalization is a sensible and workable alternative to the government's dangerous "War on Drugs." **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **What Happened To Your Family Budget?** Brochure, 2-color (blue & black). Looks at how the government impoverishes Americans by taking more in taxes than most families spend on food, clothing, and shelter (combined). **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Ending the Welfare State.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). The LP's welfare reform plan, promoting opportunity, work, and personal responsibility — instead of failed government programs. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again.** Brochure, 2-color (red & black). Explains the LP's five-point crime-control program that protects civil liberties — while providing more resources to fight real criminals. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners.** Brochure, 2-color (orange & black). Explains and defends the Libertarian Party's strong pro-Second Amendment position for general audience. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

■ **Working to Cut Your Taxes.** Brochure, 2-color (green & black). How the LP would drastically reduce the size and cost of government by privatizing government services, abolishing corporate welfare, and ending income taxes. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ Or \$7 for 100

# More Bang For the Buck!

**W**ant to add more fun — and success — to your Tax Day rally this year? Our "Million Dollar Bill" literature will do the trick!

The front side looks like a Federal Reserve \$1,000,000 note; the other explains that the federal government spends \$1 million every five seconds — and the only party trying to change that is the LP.

The "\$1,000,000 bill" is one of the most popular LP Tax Day outreach tools ever.

April 15 is almost here: Order yours today!

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There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 3-4 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party. Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, occupation, and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year.

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## Yard Signs

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/Vote Libertarian

## Bumper Stickers

Don't Blame Me... I Voted Libertarian  
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ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN  
Vote Libertarian/1-800-682-1776

## Buttons

Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian  
VOTE LIBERTARIAN/800-682-1776  
Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything

## Miscellaneous Items

Sheets of LP stickers (24 per sheet)  
Lined windbreaker. Circle one: M L XL  
"Liberty" Teddy Bear

## Tools for Campaigning

Libertarian TV Ads Video  
Statue of Liberty logo master  
LP Statue of Liberty logo on 3-1/2" PC disk  
Newsprint ads: "Libertarian Party — Defenders of Liberty" set of seven.

## Large & Small Banners

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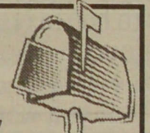
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# THE FORUM

## Don't wait until you're elected to office

The elections are over, and legislative bodies all across the country, from town councils to the U.S. Congress, are at it again, passing laws without the benefit of libertarian input. But we can influence their actions whether we're elected or not. At the same time, we can pave the way for Libertarian electoral (and legislative) victories.

How?

By getting involved in government at the local level. By going to our town and county councils' public meetings. By studying the issues our local elected officeholders are considering and offering libertarian solutions. Most of all, by doing these things on an ongoing, in-it-for-the-long-haul basis.

Where I live (New York City), the lowest level of government consists of 59 Community Boards. Each CB has about 50 un-

paid members appointed by the borough (county) president. The CBs have advisory (but not legislative) power in areas such as zoning and the city budget. About a year ago, I

found out when my local CB meets, and I started attending.

I've learned a handful of things that could benefit libertarians who are interested in gaining legislative clout.

■ Government is porous: The boundaries between who's in and who's out may be clearly defined, but, at least in my community (and very likely in yours), there are ways for people who are neither elected nor ap-



Photo by Bob Kulp

**By Jim Strawhorn**

pointed to get involved. New York's CBs, for example, have committees on which "resident members," who don't have official appointments to the CB, may serve. They also have open-mike sessions at each meeting; anyone in the community can speak. You don't have to be appointed or elected to participate.

■ A surprising amount of support for liberty already exists within government bodies. Even though many members of New York's CBs lean to the left (no surprise there!), a few are aware of the values of property rights and personal liberty. It was a pleasant shock to find that at least one member of my own district's CB is solidly libertarian.

■ Most governmental processes are boring. They can also be frustrating and infuriating. But the people who are running things now — the statist — en-

dure the boredom in order to have their way. If we libertarians want to move our values beyond the discussion stage, we'll have to do some of the unglamorous work that governance entails.

Elegant theories count for nothing unless we are willing to slog through the processes to get them enacted into law.

### Interested?

If you're interested in getting involved in this way, I suggest that you consider these points:

■ Negative speech — criticizing people and their cherished beliefs — can be very effective... *in turning people off*. If you find it necessary to speak negatively, at least make it clear that you're disagreeing with people's positions and aren't attacking them personally. Use the "Ransberger pivot" to keep your listeners' attention focused on the common-

ality of your goals.

On the other hand, positive speech — describing the benefits of liberty, or warning about threats to it — is, most of the time, very ineffective. That's right, *ineffective*. It has to be repeated many times and stated in many ways before it sinks in.

■ If you want to be more self-confident when you speak before a group, join Toastmasters. In a supportive environment, you'll receive expert guidance on developing your communication and leadership skills.

(But if you despair of ever speaking confidently in public, don't let that stop you from getting involved in local government. When other libertarians come along, you'll be there to support them.)

■ Be alert for pro-liberty statements made at meetings and express your support. Everyone likes to hear that someone agrees with their position.

Even if you disagree with the same people on other issues, they'll appreciate your taking the trouble to point out areas where you agree. You'll be forging relationships with (partially) like-minded individuals.

■ Participating in local government will give you invaluable practice in articulating libertarian solutions. Expounding libertarian generalities is easy; dealing with people who want to spend tax dollars to fix up the town gazebo is a different matter. Don't expect to be a persuasive champion of liberty on your first (or tenth or hundredth) try. Listen, think, and work continuously to improve the clarity and delivery of your message.

### Win elections

By getting involved with your local government, you'll be rubbing elbows with people who know how to raise and deploy the resources needed to win elections. You can learn from them. When it comes time to support Libertarian Party candidates, you'll be that much more effective because of the knowledge and experience you've gained.

If you eventually decide to run for office, you'll already have a nucleus of support and savvy advisors among the officeholders you've gotten to know. And, while you're learning about the real world of politics, you'll have many opportunities to promote liberty among people who have the power to affect it right in your own back yard.

Libertarian legislative power is an achievable goal. We can lay the foundations for it now.

■ **Editor's note:** Jim Strawhorn has been active in the Libertarian Party of Queens County since its inception, in November of 1994.

## Why vote Libertarian? The "Lottery Lesson"

*How to respond to the complaint: "But I don't want to waste my vote!"*

It's a statement you've probably heard: "I agree with you Libertarians. Government is too big and too bossy. Taxes are way too high. But I just can't vote for your candidate for president. He can't win. I don't want to waste my vote."

Here's one answer: "I appreciate your situation. Would you be willing to hear why millions of people like you might just vote for our Libertarian candidate for president in 2000?"

"Sure."

"The Republicans and Democrats are spending hundreds of millions of dollars to win the White House. They have powerful campaign organizations. And tens of thousands of volunteers.

"In light of this, the chances of our Libertarian being elected president must seem astronomically small. Why would you risk your vote on such a long shot?"

"That's exactly my point."

"Why chance your vote on such a long shot? I may have a question that gives us the answer..." And my answer is this:

Why do people buy lottery tickets?

The odds against winning the lottery are astronomical. But millions of people buy lottery tickets. Why? Because the tickets cost so little... and if you do win... the jackpot may change your life forever...

Our Libertarian candidate is a long shot, too. But your vote costs you almost nothing.

### \$10,000

If our Libertarian candidate for president does win, if our Libertarian president does end the income tax NOW, if he takes your Social Security out of the hands of government and leaves it in your hands NOW... you'll win back \$10,000 in taxes. You'll have \$10,000 more in your pocket this year and next year and every year you work for the



**By Michael Cloud**

rest of your life.

You get a \$10,000 a year Libertarian tax-return jackpot.

So does everyone you know and love. Family, friends, co-workers... over 120 million working Americans. \$10,000 more every year for the rest of your working life.

What difference would this huge payoff make in your life — or your neighbors'? What would you do with the money?

Would you use it to go into business for yourself? Would you buy a better home for your family? Would you finally be able to substantially help that charity or cause you care so much about?

Would you enroll your kids in a private school — or homeschool them?

And what would all your friends and neighbors do with their huge payoffs? Would they use some of it to help those less fortunate? Would they build their businesses — and provide employment for others in your community?

Imagine the huge difference that this yearly tax cut jackpot could make in their lives — and the lives of others.

Our Libertarian presidential candidate is a very long shot. But your risk is small.

Your one vote in over 100 million votes. And your vote costs almost nothing. Voting Libertarian is like buying a lottery ticket. And if we win, if we succeed... You win big. It will change your life forever!

### Why it works

Please note that I shifted the "waste your vote" objection to "risk your vote." Waste suggests zero chance of winning. Risk admits a long shot, a slim chance.

The Lottery Lesson will *not* convince everyone worried about "throwing his vote away" to vote Libertarian. Neither will any other approach.

But I tested "The Lottery Lesson" approach on dozens of talk radio show audiences during my 1998 U.S. Senate campaign. I received more positive response from more people more often.

Why not test it on the next 10 people who raise "the wasted vote" issue? It costs you almost nothing — and if it works it could change your life forever.

■ **Editor's note:** Michael Cloud was the Keynote Speaker at the 1998 Libertarian National Convention. He is also a professional speechwriter and fundraiser for libertarian causes.



# Crime is falling, so let's write some more laws

It is apparently undeniable that we are safer than we have been in some time. In virtually every study and every report, by local, state and federal agencies, crime is down. This is, of course, good news. We can credit the economy, stiff sentencing laws, and the hard work of law enforcement everywhere.

There is a downside to this good news. Just as doctors need illness and accountants need confusing tax laws, law enforcers need criminals. What happens when the pool of adversaries begins to dry up? Simple: Find new adversaries.

Modesto and Stanislaus County (California) are poised to follow the leads of San Francisco and San Diego and put a halt to the scourge of barroom smoking. No word yet as to which agency will draw the assignment, but if bad laws are followed by bad decisions, the police department will likely get the call.

In San Diego, vice squad officers are now going undercover in bars to bust patrons who dare light up. Victims are fined \$273.

In an amazing admission, a sergeant with the department was quoted as saying, "What we want to do is create paranoia. If paranoia gets compliance, I can live with that." Evidently real criminals provide too much of a moving target. Smoking citizens are to fear the police.

## Public Enemy #1

This week, Modesto's finest snared unsuspecting motorists in another seat-belt checkpoint. They set up shop on Tully Road during the morning rush with at least nine motorcycles, 11 officers and a police van, in order to apprehend the ever-elusive public enemy number one: Motorists who don't buckle up!

One minute you're dropping your kids off at school, the next, you're receiving a lecture about being a danger to yourself and others. One would hope that there were still enough cops left on the streets in case someone dared spit on the sidewalk. A trip to the market now might involve passing through a government checkpoint.

Home is no haven either. My boss shared an experience he had with county law enforcement. He was home one afternoon last year, when he had a knock at his door. It was an animal control agent, in uniform, who asked if he owned a dog. Be-

**By Rick Minyard**

ing an honest man, he answered in the affirmative. He was then asked to provide proof of license. Unable to do so, he was cited and ordered to appear downtown, pay a fine, and obtain a license. One other thing: He was asked if any of his neighbors had dogs. If there were other criminals on the block, she was going to bring them to justice as well.

A caller to my radio program this week shared his criminal experience. A knock at his door signaled the arrival of the Turlock Police Department's crime-fighter. It seems that there

**"JUST AS DOCTORS need illness, law enforcers need criminals."**


was a warrant for his arrest. He had failed to appear on an earlier violation. The violation: Failure to obtain a \$10 permit before holding a Saturday yard sale. His case is pending. This sort of law-

lessness is not tolerated.

With the reduction in crime, our uniformed officials have been reduced to the status of revenue agents. Wouldn't it be easier to do like the little leaguers do — and sell candy bars or magazine subscriptions?

It would do wonders for community relations, and who knows: We might even be more generous.

■ **Editor's note:** Rick Minyard is a Libertarian radio talk show host on KFIV Radio (AM-1360) in Modesto, California.



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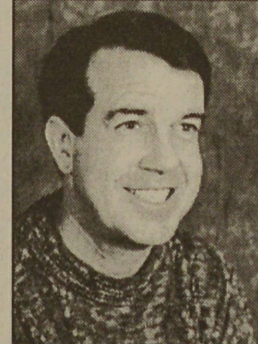
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# From THE EDITOR

## Guns, germs, steel, & those kleptocrats

One of the most interesting books I've read recently was *Guns, Germs, and Steel*, by Jared Diamond. It's not a political book; in fact, I could detect little ideological bias by the author. Instead, it is an examination (over thousands of years) of why some cultures thrive and others don't.

Diamond approaches the question from a scientist's perspective. Specifically, he's interested in the impact of weapons (guns), disease (germs), and technology (steel) on cultures.

For example, he asks: Why did the Europeans have the technology to "discover" North America and the superior weapons to conquer it — not vice versa? And a related question: Why did European diseases wipe out huge numbers of native Americans — not vice versa?

His answers take a book to explain. Along the way, he ponders the invention of agriculture, the domestication of animals, how diseases develop, how technology spreads, the shape of continents, and the rise of specialized classes of people (like soldiers and scientists). It's utterly fascinating.

Why am I telling you this? Because he also considers the rise of "chiefdoms" (that is, *proto-governments*). Diamond notes that many of these early rulers were simple "kleptocrats" — plundering the masses for their own pleasure and power. He wonders: "Why do the commoners tolerate the transfer of the fruits of their hard labor to kleptocrats?"

Yes, we Libertarians wonder the same thing! But Diamond offers a "big-picture" answer by identifying some common trends and tactics among hundreds of societies over thousands of years.

His answer: "Kleptocrats throughout the ages have resorted to a mixture of four solutions: 1) Disarm the populace, and arm the elite. 2) Make the masses happy by redistributing much of the tribute received, in popular ways. 3) Use the monopoly of force to maintain public order. 4) Construct an ideology or religion justifying kleptocracy..."

By the way, Diamond isn't passing judgment here. He's simply stating a simple truth: People in power want to stay in power, and have, throughout history, perfected certain effective methods to accomplish that.

Of those methods, you notice there's one most Libertarians will appreciate as a legitimate function of government: It's #3, protecting individuals from crime. But the other methods should give us pause. Over the past 22 centuries, as America has moved from a country with a strictly limited government to one with a vast, ever-expanding government, how many of those "kleptocratic" techniques have we seen?

■ **Disarm the populace.** America's tens of thousands of gun control laws seem to qualify, wouldn't you say?

■ **Make the masses happy by redistributing much of the tribute.** From Social Security to AFDC to corporate welfare, American politicians have perfected "redistribution" to a degree unimagined by primitive chieftains.

■ **Construct an ideology or religion justifying kleptocracy.** No, big government isn't our official "religion." But is there any doubt that it is the dominant ideology?

America is a nation that enshrined the rights of the individual in the Bill of Rights and bound the government "with the chains of the Constitution." Isn't it a shock, then, to realize that many American politicians have behaved no differently than the most primitive "kleptocrats" throughout history?

Consider that next time you hear a politician calling for more gun control or extolling the "virtues" of government. And ask yourself: Is that a politician speaking — or a kleptocrat?



By Bill Winter, Editor

## 'Devolving' a better safety net with effective non-profit groups

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

By Louis James  
The Sutherland Institute

Not-for-profit organizations have a critical role to play in the re-establishment of a true "safety net." America's safety net is supposed to be a web of programs and agencies that makes sure no one "falls through the cracks" into total destitution.

Unfortunately, after spending more than 5.4 trillion (1993) dollars on a "War on Poverty," things are not getting better. Old problems such as homelessness and new ones such as chronic welfare dependency seem to be accelerating, even though spending is over 640% of what it was when the war began.

Poverty figures show a steady decline that began in the late 1940s, many years before the War on Poverty, until they bottomed out at 11.1% in 1973. The figures have been rising since, to where the most recent figure (1993) was up to 15.1%, only 2.2% less than the 17.3% of 1965, when the War on Poverty began.

A safety net with holes big enough to drop an elephant through is not much protection.

Americans from all walks of life, including politicians, are realizing that Lyndon B. Johnson's "Great Society" has just not worked.

### Life-preserver

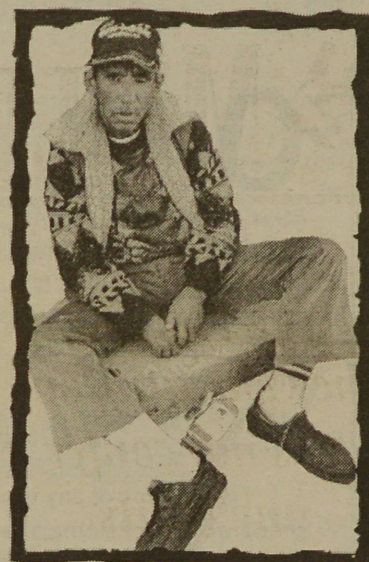
Devolution. This is the word of our day — the life-preserver politicians are hoping will help them weather the storm of tax-weary voter dissatisfaction. Political devolution is the process of undoing the centralization of power in Washington, of returning power to the states, communities, and even back to individuals.

Many worry that devolution will unravel our society's safety net. But this fear ignores the fact that the very reason for the change in policy has been the inadequacy of the current system. No. Change in this area is a good thing, to be embraced and made good use of. What is needed is a revitalization of those agencies that have shown time and time again that they truly can help the destitute: Not-for-

## LIBERTARIAN Solutions

profit organizations, specifically, private charities.

Non-profits are unique in that they blend positive aspects of the public and private sectors. They are like public agencies in that their success is measured by the degree to which they serve a need and not by how much financial return they generate for investors. Non-profits are also like the private sector in that



### QUESTION:

Can the private sector really care for America's poor people?

they are more responsive to their contributors than are government agencies. Donors can choose among various charities, while taxpayers have no direct ability to punish ineffectiveness.

Non-profits do many of the things we have come to think of as government service activities, but they typically do it far more

effectively. This is what makes them the natural choice for investment in society when government is being "downsized."

Most people agree that smaller organizations — private charities — do the best job of getting those who have stumbled back on their feet — permanently.

Sister Connie Driscoll's Saint Martin de Porres House of Hope shelter for women in Chicago is a good example. Sister Connie is one tough nun: She wears an eye-patch and built a shelter of the most troubled women in Chicago with little more than her two hands, two dimes, and her sister's credit card.

### 95% success rate

She receives no funding from the state, county, or city governments, and does not want it. She has a 95% success rate — a record that towers over that of any of the city's shelters. This is because Sister Connie can practice a "tough love" approach. She has random drug testing, curfews, and requires her "clients" to find solid employment. The city shelters can't even ask "residents" to stop drinking.

Fortunately for Sister Connie, the city has not opened a shelter across the street from hers — an occurrence that has shut down similar private shelters in other cities. "Clients" will move to a city shelter because there are fewer "hassles."

Ask yourself what you would do if you were given a million dollars on the condition that you spend it helping the poor. Would you give it to the Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD), or a non-profit like Habitat For Humanity or the soup kitchen around the corner?

The plain truth is that charities — non-profit organizations chartered to combat specific social ills — always have been the strongest part of our society's "safety net."

### Step up to the plate

[To use just one state as an example], the IRS lists 5,879 tax-exempt charities in Utah, classified into 70 categories and hundreds of sub-categories. The 791 largest of these employ almost 12,000 people. Clearly, there is a substantial non-profit sector that can step up to the plate as the need grows.

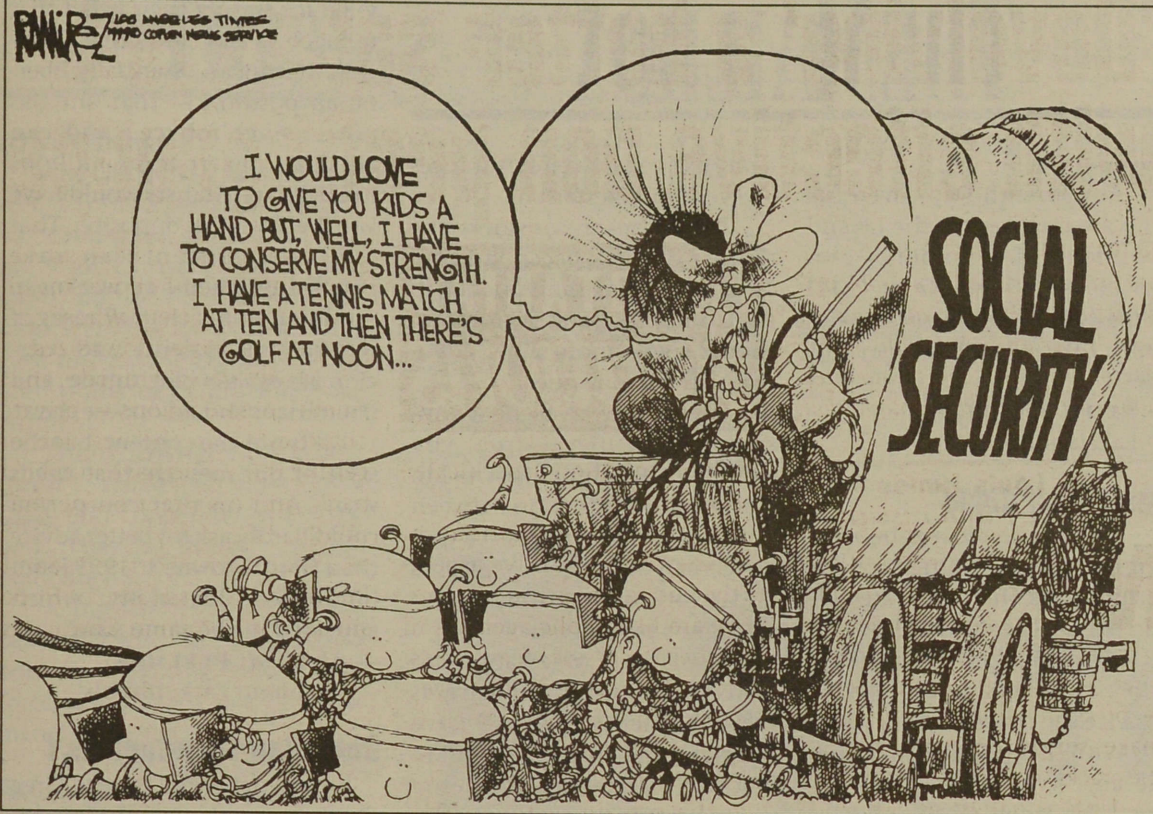
Given this state of affairs, those who work to satisfy the

See SAFETY NET Page 22

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## THE MAILBOX

### Confers no rights

This letter is in response to Ronald Petrocco's letter [LP News, February 1999] about the "Free Market Amendment." I wish to address Judge Thomas F. Hogan's ruling that the U.S. Constitution does not confer "a fundamental right of individuals to privately contract with their physicians." Either Judge Hogan is incredibly ignorant or being deliberately disingenuous.

The fact is that the Constitution does not confer *any* rights on anyone because the Constitution does not apply to individuals. It only applies to government. It tells us how the federal government will be organized, what powers will be delegated to it, and that it must not infringe on the rights of individuals.

So where do our rights come from? If you asked where we get our right to "keep and bear arms," most people would say the Second Amendment. That is wrong. The Second Amendment only says that the government shall not infringe on this right. As explained in the Declaration of Independence, all our rights are given to us by our creator and are inherent and inalienable.

Also, Judge Hogan has the question inverted. The question is not whether the Constitution confers "a fundamental right of individuals to privately contract . . .," the question should be where in the Constitution is the government delegated the power to interfere with the private contract between me and my physi-

### "THE FACT IS, the Constitution does not confer any rights on anyone."

cian? The answer is nowhere.

As James Madison pointed out in Federalist No. 45, the legitimate powers of the federal government are "few and defined." Nowhere in the Constitution is the government delegated the power to interfere with private contracts.

We do not need a free market amendment. We do need to demand that the government abide by the Constitution as it is written.

— JOHN E. THORNE  
Port Orchard, Washington

### Mathematical slogan

Concerning a Libertarian Party slogan (LP News, January 1999, The Pulse): Requiring no explanation would be simply to

use a mathematical equation to express the Libertarian philosophy, principles, and values.

"Freedom=Responsibility2." People understand that equation. And those that don't, should.

— ALLAN SAWYER  
Seattle, Washington

### New caucus?

I'm pleased to see the formation of the "Friendly Caucus" by Libertarian Quakers. I myself am a Seventh-Day Adventist, and am a member of my church's religious liberty committee. (1999, in fact, has been proclaimed the year of religious liberty.) I would like to suggest the formation of an "Adventist Caucus." There are logical associations.

Both the Libertarian Party and the Seventh-Day Adventist Church are strong supporters of the separation of church and state, realizing that religious minorities always suffer when the church and state unite. (The SDA has been publishing *Liberty: A Magazine of Religious Freedom* since about 1910.) The SDA Church has also always taken an anti-war stance from its inception in the middle of the War Between the States.

The church also runs a large network of schools, including 81 colleges and universities, the philosophy of which is to teach young people, in Ellen White's words, "to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thoughts."

See THE MAILBOX Page 20

## THE PULSE

### Crime and (proper) punishment

There's nothing like life and death political issues to galvanize people, and the death penalty is no exception. This month's Pulse questions — should the LP take a position on the death penalty, and what should the position be? — generated the third-highest number of responses ever. And the answers demonstrated why the party has traditionally declined to take a stand on this issue: Libertarians weighed in vehemently for and against the death penalty and vehemently for and against taking a position on it.

The unscientific results: 41% said the party *should* take an "official" position (whether yes or no), while 18% said the LP should remain neutral. Another 41% did not answer the question, or gave ambiguous answers.

On the death penalty itself, a slim majority (51%) said the LP should oppose it. Another 26% said Libertarians should support the death penalty, while 19% didn't state an opinion, or gave ambiguous responses. Another 4% said it should be up to the victims or their families to decide.

Here is a representative sampling of the responses:

■ Murderers have no rights, but the death penalty is too much power for the state to hold. We all know that governments make mistakes, hence our government's motto: "Oops." Execution is an irrevocable error.

— DONALD GALICK, Akron, Ohio

■ Are you seriously asking libertarians whether the government should kill people?! The correct answer is: "Duh!" But since the question is posed with the astonishing assertion that "there is no obvious Libertarian position" on capital punishment, I'll spell it out for you: N-O.

— BRIAN D. KRAFT, Washington, DC

■ The Fifth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution provides that no person shall be deprived of life without due process of law, which means that the Founding Fathers acknowledged that there were some crimes for which a person could be deprived of life. I stand with the Founding Fathers on this one, and so should the LP.

— CHUCK ESPOSITO, Suches, Georgia

■ The LP should take a position *against* the death penalty. Any person who would give government the power to decide who lives and who dies probably will not agree with many "official" Libertarian positions anyway.

— COLIN LEATH, Austin, Texas

■ Yes, the LP should support the death penalty. There are people in this world who are so amoral, who are such a danger to their fellow human beings, that they should be treated as a cancer to be excised from the body of society.

— DWANE KOPPLER, Springfield, Missouri

■ There is an obvious Libertarian position on the death penalty. Simply, no one should be forced to die — the ultimate violation of person.

— JERRY DIXON, El Cajon, California

■ If we deplore government interference in our lives, why silently support government murder in our names? Let's leave final justice to God, not governments!

— MICHAEL J. FALLAHAY, Indianapolis, Indiana

■ We should take no position. The issue of what is considered a crime is much more important than the penalties imposed for actual crimes. Let Libertarian candidates take their own individual positions on this one.

— LAURE CHIPMAN, Salem, Virginia

■ Yes, the LP should take a position on the death penalty. Government is largely a justice system. We should be

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# THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

for the death penalty, because justice requires the penalty of death for first-degree murder; it honors the victim and does indeed deter the murderer.

— PAUL NUGENT, Prescott Valley, Arizona

■ Oppose capital punishment. Our mission is to point the way toward a less violent world by setting an example, using minimal necessary force to keep the peace.

— JAMES L. PAYNE, Sandpoint, Idaho

■ Anyone who denies the right of life and liberty, by unjustly taking the life or liberty of another, deserves the consequences of his own judgment and behavior.

— JACK GARDNER, Austin, Texas

■ Violence begets violence. The end of violence begins when one person says, "I will not kill." The state should set the first example by not killing its own citizens.

— STEVEN MCDUGALL, Littleton, Massachusetts

■ We should support the death penalty because the only thing that will deter certain criminals from killing others is the absolute certainty that they will die for it.

— HAL R. HAWKINSON, Webb Lake, Wisconsin

■ The victim of a crime should be able to choose the fate of his aggressor, whether it's forgiveness, restitution, prison, or death, with a neutral judiciary to see that the punishment fits the crime.

— ANNE MCCracken, Albuquerque, New Mexico

## June Question: Hulk Hogan for President?

**W**ho is the hottest governor in America? It's got to be Jesse (The Body) Ventura, the libertarian-leaning Reform Party governor of Minnesota, who currently boasts a 72% approval rating.

He's also the prototype of the "non-politician" that voters crave, says the editor of *Campaigns & Elections* magazine, Ron Faucheux, noting, "It's amazing that there aren't a lot more (like Ventura) out there."

Oh no? Late last year, wrestler Hulk Hogan announced that he planned to run for president in 2000. Like Ventura, Hogan has a large fan base and has starred in several movies. And a December 1998 SurveyUSA poll showed Hogan garnering 13% of the vote in a three-way race against George W. Bush and Al Gore. Could Hulk Hogan be the Libertarian Party's Jesse Ventura?

■ Question: Should the Libertarian Party approach Hulk Hogan about running for president on the LP ticket in 2000? Why or why not? (Limit answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: May 5, 1999

## May Question: Libertarian society's virtues?

**E**veryone's definition of a "perfect" Libertarian society is different, but they would all have features in common: A flowering of private charity; better business opportunities; volunteerism instead of coercion; a nation at peace; and so on. Think about the day you will live in a Libertarian society, and tell us: What will be the *single best thing* about a Libertarian America?

■ QUESTION: What will be the single best thing — political, social, economic, cultural, whatever — about a Libertarian society? (Please limit answers to 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: April 5, 1999

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

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# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

Any Seventh-Day Adventists who are members of the LP and are interested in forming a caucus please phone me at (941) 686-4747, or write me at 402 North Lake Avenue, Lakeland, FL 33801.

— KEITH T. MILLER

Lakeland, Florida

## Analytic critique

LP News must not be condemned for publishing paid advertisements that advocate certain political positions. However, LP News should provide space for party members to negatively criticize the content of such ads.

With that principle in mind, the ad, "Why Not Open Borders," by Jacob G. Hornberger [February 1999], deserves an analytic critique. For one thing, the ad promotes the bizarre notion that only crimes against federal law that are "heinous" should be prosecuted. Also, if such prosecutions leave "tears and anguish in their wake," they should not be conducted. It is highly dangerous to tamper with laws in these subjective, eccentric ways.

Two, the argument given in the ad for "open immigration," is unconvincing. In that respect, the ad insists the more immigrants, the better. However, the statistics that the ad offers in this regard are wholly speculative. That is, the population of the U.S. would have to be tripled, quadrupled, and so on, within a very short period for a true test of the effects of open immigration to be made.

Three, what if welfare rolls, and those of other government services, were hugely expanded as the result of open immigration? The ad's response, "Congress should prohibit them" (immigrants) from receiving welfare, or "privatize" the services, is sheer inanity. Congress would do nothing of the sort, as any genuine Libertarian knows full well.

— PATRICK GROFF

San Diego, California

## Fascinating answers

I found the responses to [the February 1999] Pulse question fascinating. They illustrate the fact that one's politics is in part

a product of one's circumstances — even for Libertarians.

Don Wacker considers the defense of the tobacco industry "stupid." Chris Houmann thinks that on drug prohibition, we should spend more time "advocating the good issues."

If you happen to be a consumer of an illegal drug, you would not be sympathetic to Mr. Houmann's distinction between "good" and "bad" issues. All that concerns you is the viciousness and irrationality of the government's persecution.

Similarly, if you happen to work for a tobacco company, as I do (indirectly), you will have feelings quite different from Mr. Wacker. I appreciate his desire not to breathe tobacco smoke — but this does not justify hounding a legitimate industry out of business.

Tobacco executives were re-

viled for stating their belief that tobacco is not addictive. They were stating an essentially libertarian position — that one has power over tobacco and can choose to exert it, as millions indeed have. Statists would have you believe the opposite: That only government can save people from their own weakness.

My point is that *all* cases of government violence and coercion are *equally* illegitimate, and libertarians should oppose them.

It is not the content, but the style of our message that needs work. And on that count, you could hardly ask for better advice than Harry Browne's "1999 Resolutions for Libertarians," which appeared in the same issue.

— ALAN M. PERLMAN

Highland Park, Illinois

## Christian-Libertarians I

I was delighted to read Greg Cunningham's personal essay, "My personal Exodus to Libertarianism" [LP News, February 1999]. I had almost given up both on the LP and politically

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# THE MAILBOX

active Christians.

The Libertarian Party did not seem to offer a place for one who has committed oneself to serving Jesus Christ. On the other hand, politically active Christians seem not to have the foggiest understanding of how the Lord wants us to relate to government.

True Christians are not a threat to those with whom they share and cooperate on a daily basis. They are, in fact, consummate libertarians.

A non-believer who lives peaceably with his or her neighbors, by refraining from acts of force or fraud, is also a consummate libertarian.

After spending decades in this moral wilderness called "the 20th Century," I am glad that Greg Cunningham has come along to show me that I have not made the journey alone.

— EVAN L. WEBSTER  
Tucson, Arizona

## Christian-Libertarians II

Just a short, simple response to Greg Cunningham's view on being a Christian and a Libertarian.

Thomas Jefferson borrowed a quote from William Tyndale, who was executed for translating the Bible into English: "Rebellion to tyranny is obedience to God."

Jesus died a rebel's death.  
— MARK T. SHREVE  
Waterloo, Iowa

## Christian-Libertarians III

This is in reference to Greg Cunningham, the born-again Libertarian and related "Mailbox" comments [March 1999] by Jack Gardner and Helen Weaver.

"So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the law and the Prophets." (Matthew 7:12). God speaks like a libertarian, acts like a libertarian and commands us to be libertarians — so He must be libertarian. According to the Bible, one can not be Christian without also being a libertarian.

The confusing reality is that few "Christians" actually practice Christianity. Libertarians should read the Bible and try not to allow our opinion of Christianity to be clouded by the po-

litical acts of people who simply call themselves "Christian" — we are to know them by their "fruit," not by their words. A careful reading of Scripture is guaranteed to put any libertarian mind at ease regarding God's position on "individual sovereignty."

At the same time, we should seek every Christian for the Libertarian Party. Mark Twain wrote

in the September 2, 1905, *Collier's*: "If the Christians of America could be persuaded to vote God and a clean ticket, it would bring about a moral revolution that would be incalculable beneficent. It would save the country..." Amen to that.

— GRANT KUHN  
Carlsbad, California

## Christian-Libertarians IV

I would like to respond to the comment made by Jack Gardner [The Mailbox, *LP News*, March 1999]. He stated that "Christian support for Libertar-

ian morality rests on... quicksand... the Bible," and that "religion... negates reason as a foundation." He claimed that "Christian Libertarians will undermine the LP's long-range goal... a free society." Then in the same breath, he called John Adams, the Founding Father, an example of a "true Libertarian."

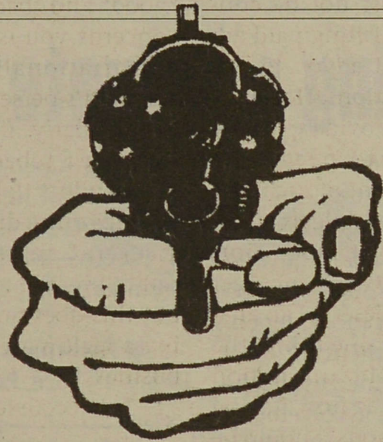
Mr. Gardner is apparently quite ignorant of John Adams' beliefs, as well as the importance of religion to maintain a free society.

In his diary entry dated February 22, 1756, John Adams

wrote: "Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible as its only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there exhibited! Every member would be obliged in conscience, to temperance, frugality, and industry; to justice, kindness, and charity towards his fellow men; and to piety, love, and reverence toward Almighty God."

John Adams also wrote on August 28, 1811, "Religion and virtue are the only foundations, not only of republicanism and of

See THE MAILBOX Page 22



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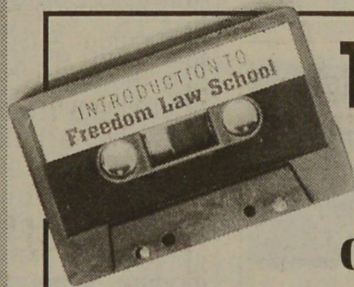


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# More UPCOMING EVENTS

## ■ April 30-May 2, 1999

**Michigan LP Convention**, Ramada Inn, Southfield. Speakers include Bill Ballenger (Editor, *Inside Michigan Politics*). Held in conjunction with Success '99 Libertarian leadership training seminars, featuring Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Michael Cloud. For information, contact Pam Collins: (248) 542-6885. E-mail: HRHCollins@aol.com.

## ■ May 1, 1999

**Iowa LP Convention**, Ft. Des Moines Hotel, Des Moines. Speakers include Steve Givot (Libertarian National Committee) and Bob Smith (Membership Chair, LP of Minnesota). For information, contact Mark Nelson: (319) 344-0013. E-mail: DMNmkvtal@aol.com.

## ■ May 1-2, 1999

**Indiana LP Convention**, Adam's Mark Hotel, Indianapolis. Speakers include Doug Friedline (Jesse Ventura's campaign manager), Dr. Eric Schansberg (author of *Poor Policy: How Government Harms the Poor*), Brian Howey (*Howey Political Report* editor), and Kyle Hannon (owner of Filibuster Press). For information, call: (800) 388-1776. E-mail: lpinhq@lpin.org.

## ■ May 12-15, 1999

**Drug Policy Foundation's 12th International Conference** on Drug Policy Reform, Bethesda, Maryland. For information, call (202) 537-5005. E-mail: conferences@dpf.org.

## ■ May 14-16, 1999

**Kansas LP & Missouri LP Convention**, Embassy Suites Plaza Hotel, Kansas City, Kansas. Speakers include Ron Paul (1988 LP presidential candidate), Daniel Smith (LP Affiliate Services Manager), Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist), Bob Corkins (Kansas Public Policy Institute), and Tim Slagle (Libertarian comedian). For more information, call from in-state: Missouri (877) VOTE-4-US, or Kansas (800) 335-1776. Website: [www.geocities.com/~molp/convflyer.pdf](http://www.geocities.com/~molp/convflyer.pdf).

## ■ May 15-16, 1999

**Ohio LP Convention**, Findlay Inn & Conference Center, Findlay. Speakers include James Bovard (author of *Lost Rights*), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Gene Cisevski (Liberty Council), Jim Lark (college organizing expert), William Redpath, and Richard Boddie. For information, call Ralph Mullinger at (419) 425-2702. E-mail: rmullinger@yahoo.com. Or, e-mail LeRoy Lloyd at lloyd@wcnet.org.

## ■ May 15-16, 1999

**Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar**, San Francisco, California. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director), and David Bergland (LP National Chairman). For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

## ■ May 22-23, 1999

**Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar**, Anaheim, California. For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

## ■ May 28-31, 1999

**Libertarian Victory 2000**, Aston Waikiki Sunset Hotel, Honolulu, Hawaii. Speakers include Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate); Don Gorman (former N.H. state legislator); R.W. Bradford (publisher of *Liberty*); David Kamioner (political consultant); Gene Cisevski (Liberty Council); Bonnie Flickinger (Moreno Valley City Council); and Barbara Goushaw (campaign manager). For information, write: Liberty Council, P.O. Box 12075, Washington DC 20005.

## ■ June 5-6, 1999

**Success '99 Libertarian Leadership Training Seminar**, New York City, New York. For information or to register, call the Balcom Group at (202) 234-3880.

# THE MAILBOX

Continued from Page 21

all free government, but of social felicity under all governments and in all the combinations of human society."

— JONATHAN E. ROBERTS  
Springfield, Missouri

■ **Editor's note:** For more letters on the Christian/Libertarian issue, see the expanded online "Mailbox" at [www.LP.org/LPN/](http://www.LP.org/LPN/).

## The direct approach

It seems that of the mailings the Libertarian Party sends, many are pleas for contributions for new member recruitment. While this is worthwhile, I would also urge current members to take a more direct approach.

Instead of donating the money to the party for indirect recruitment, use it to pay for the first year of membership for a

new member.

I did this recently. A friend of mine was interested in the party, but not quite enough to pay the fee to join. So, I paid it instead. Just think of how quickly our numbers could increase if more Libertarians would sign up their borderline-Libertarian friends!

Once they receive a year's worth of the newsletter, they'll be likely to continue the membership on their own in years to come. Try it!

— JOSH SILVA

Rohnert Park, California

# Devolving a private sector safety net

Continued from Page 18

needs of people through the non-profit sector should embrace the coming era of devolution. The entire non-profit sector — even those most dependent upon government funds — will see a dramatic increase in the amount of interest, involvement, and support they receive from the communities they serve.

Devolution will be good for non-profits, increasing pressure on them to maintain the highest ethical standards and produce greater and greater results.

Because of the coming devolution, America has an urgent need to build its strength, numbers, and effectiveness of the non-profit sector. Americans are some of the most generous people on earth. They gave \$23.5 billion to non-profits in 1995, a 5% increase over the year before.

## Bring power

To be effective, devolution must be pushed as far as it will go. State governments can be just as bureaucratic and burdensome as the federal government. We must bring power and money back to the communities, families, and people from whom they were taken.

This will enable more people to support non-profits, providing effective groups with more diversity and stability in funding. Perhaps, best of all, by enhancing community involvement, the service rendered by non-profits will be improved.

Devolution is an impending political reality. Ideological disagreement with this trend is irrelevant. What is relevant is that this can be a drastic change for

the better if people get involved in their local non-profits and if non-profits squeeze every last bit of effective service out of their organizations.

■ **Editor's note:** Louis James is Vice President of the

Sutherland Institute, an independent, non-profit, non-partisan public policy research and educational organization located in Murray, Utah. For more information, write: 111 East 5600 South, Suite 208, Murray UT 84107. Or call: (801) 281-2081.

## Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County



This new novel by Titus Stauffer is a wacky tale of lawyersaurs, Quart Low Trackers, Ale Run Hubba-Bubba and His Church of Omnology, Panderwood, and officials at THEMNOTUS and NADGRAB run amuck. A tale so utterly bizarre as to defy all rationality. A tale beyond belief. But then we get to the annotated end portion of the book and we see that *Jurassic Horde Whisperer of Madness County* is based on FACTS - facts too irrational, crazy and destructive to be pure fiction. Church, State, Media, and Hollyweird have provided all the madness spoofed here. Fun, yes, but also a disturbing warning about how destructive irrationality runs rampant in our modern, supposedly enlightened scientific age.

Other works by Titus Stauffer: *Bats in the Belfry*, *By Design* is a near-future hard science fiction novel about a U.S. weapons designer who regrets helping a freedom fearing government. *Freedom From Freedom Froms* is a sequel which continues to throw pointed barbs at many who fear real freedom.

Available through: **Barnes & Noble**, [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), or order directly from: **FreeVoice Publishing**, P.O. Box 692168, Houston, TX 77269-2168 (281)251-5226 *Jurassic Horde Whisperer*\$11.95 *Bats in the Belfry* \$7.50 *Freedom From* \$7.50 Shipping/Handling \$2.50 for 1st book, \$1 each additional book, allow 2-4 weeks for delivery. Please send check or money order only and include ship to address.

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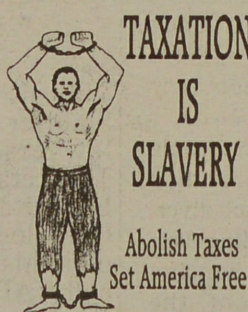
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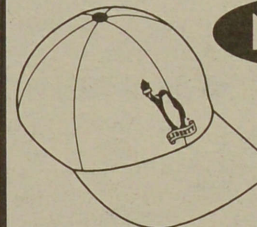


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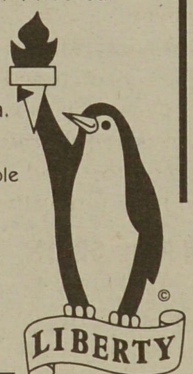
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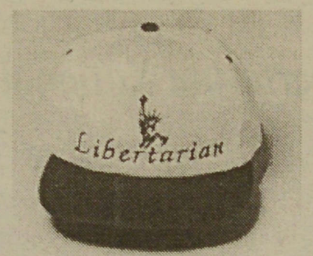
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# UPCOMING EVENTS

## ■ April 9-11, 1999

**Alabama LP Convention**, Ramada Inn East, Montgomery. Speakers include Sheldon Richman (Future of Freedom Foundation), Terry McKee (author of *Homeschoolers' Career Exploration Atlas*), Dr. John Eidsmoe (Jones Law School), and Kent McKee (FIJA). For information, contact Charles Russell: (334) 279-6750 or (888) 838-1775. E-mail: libertyckr@earthlink.net.

## ■ April 10-11, 1999

**Minnesota LP Convention**, Mystic Lake Casino Hotel, Prior Lake. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Tom Palmer (Cato Institute), and Gene Cisewski (Liberty Council). For information, call (800) 788-2660. E-mail: Southpaw2@aol.com.

## ■ April 17, 1999

**Massachusetts LP Convention**, Renaissance Bedford Hotel, Bedford. Speakers include Gene Burns (radio talk show host), Harry Browne (1996 LP presidential candidate), Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation), Michael Cloud (Libertarian communications guru), and Shelley Davis (author of the IRS expose, *Unbridled Power*). For information, call 1-800-JOIN-LPM. E-mail: convention99@la-ma.org. Website: www.lpma.org.

## ■ April 24-25, 1999

**New York LP Convention**, Best Western MacArthur Hotel, Holtsville. Speakers include Robert James Bidinotto (Objectivist Institute), Roy Innis (CORE), David Nolan (LP Founder), and

Michael Tanner (Cato Institute). For information, call Jeff Russell at (518) 371-3641. E-mail: JRuss1776@aol.com.

## ■ April 23-25, 1999

**North Carolina LP Convention**, Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort, Asheville. Speakers include Ron Akins (Good Neighbors Association of North Carolina), Jonathan Jordan (John Locke Foundation), and Mark Tuniewicz (Libertarian National Committee Treasurer). For information, call Candi Copas at (919) 644-1594. E-mail: convention@lpnc.org. Website: http://convention.lpnc.org.

## ■ April 23-25, 1999

**Colorado LP Convention**, Sheraton Denver West Hotel, Denver. Speakers include Nathaniel Branden (author of *The Art of Living Consciously* and *Judgment Day: My Years with Ayn Rand*), Dr. Mary Ruwart (author of *Healing Our World*), and Barbara Goushaw (Libertarian campaign manager). For information, call (303) 639-5530. E-mail: BetteRose@aol.com. Website: www.barrymaggert.org/CLPConvention/.

## ■ April 24-25, 1999

**Arizona LP Convention**, Sheraton Tucson Hotel, Tucson. Speakers include Jacob Hornberger (Future of Freedom Foundation) and Vin Suprynowicz (syndicated columnist). For information, contact Fran or Kent Van Cleave: (602) 248-8583. E-mail: kvc@compuserve.com.

■ For additional Upcoming Events, see page 22.

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# INSIDE

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- **PAGE 1** San Diego LP helps kill \$423 million tax hike



# FIRST WORD

"Since 1995, the great spreading tree of government has proved impervious to the Republicans' perfunctory attempts to prune even its tiniest twigs. Republicans' shears were no match for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the arts and humanities endowments, and so forth.

Besides, Republicans and Clinton are in complete accord that the first order of business is to "save" the biggest components of big government — Social Security and Medicare. Which would be bigger, the government if Clinton got all his little additions, or if Republicans got the substantial defense increases they favor? Given the complete Republican acceptance of the broad contours of the welfare state, it is arguable that the Republican Party is the bigger-government party.

— George F. Will, *The Washington Post*, February 18, 1999