

LIBERTARIAN PARTY NEWS

The Party of Principle

July 2000

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Photo by Jim Cox

■ Sharon Harris and Jimmy Harris are more than just a pair of libertarian activists staffing a booth at the Georgia LP's state convention on March 18, 2000. They are one of several Libertarian couples who met through their libertarian political activism — and are now married.

Falling in love, Libertarian style

They came for politics. They found love.

By Lisa Stronawski
LP NEWS CORRESPONDENT

When Jimmy and Sharon Harris said "I do," they did it the libertarian way.

"We insisted that the minister leave out the words 'with the power vested in me by the state,'" says Sharon. "We even had libertarianism mentioned in our wedding vows!"

The nontraditional twist to their wedding ceremony — which Jimmy calls "one of the biggest libertarian events that year" — seemed completely natural to the Harrises. To them, libertarianism is a way of life, not just a party label.

Every libertarian activist has a different story of why they became involved in the Libertarian Party.

One will tell you he was drawn in after reading Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged*. Another will say she got fed up with paying half her money to the government in taxes. Others will tell you they got tired of the broken promises of corrupt Republican and Democratic politicians.

But very few, if any, will tell you they were looking for love. These activists got involved to make a difference — to fight for liberty. They joined local parties and volunteered to help campaigns, determined to reverse the trend towards bigger government. They focused on one thing: Restoring individual liberty.

But without even realizing it, many found more than just activism. They found others — from different backgrounds — who had the same beliefs and the same goals they did. They found people who understood their frustrations, shared the same ideology, and dedicated their time to the same cause.

See **POLITICS INTO ROMANCE** Page 12

■ **SPECIAL Feature**

'Historic' decisions loom for delegates at Convention 2000

Convention will pick LP presidential ticket, new party leadership

Up to 1,400 delegates will face a series of "historic" decisions when they converge on Anaheim, California for the Libertarian National Convention, starting on Thursday, June 29.

"The decisions these delegates make will shape the future of the Libertarian Party — not just during this presidential election, but for the next two years," said outgoing LP National Chairman David Bergland. "The future of the Libertarian Party is in their hands."

At the Convention, delegates will select the party's 2000 presidential and vice presidential candidates, elect a new LNC Chairman, vote on new Libertarian National Committee (LNC) representatives, and debate Platform and Bylaws changes.

"Who will represent the party as our presidential candidate in the eyes of 100 million voters?" asked Bergland. "Who will lead the party for the next two years?"



■ Three of the four candidates for the LP's presidential nomination — (l-r) Arizona businessman Barry Hess, former N.H. State Representative Don Gorman, and the party's 1996 presidential candidate Harry Browne — shown at the Colorado LP convention in mid-April. The fourth candidate, Dave Hollist, has not spoken at any recent state conventions.

What kinds of pro-freedom political positions will our party advocate in our Platform? All those profound decisions will be decided by the delegates at this historic Convention."

The Convention will be held at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel

from June 29-July 3, 2000.

In addition to the business sessions, the Convention will feature a panorama of guest speakers, including Indian rights activist-turned-Hollywood star Russell Means; former Reform Party na-

See **CONVENTION** Page 2

New York LP jumps into Senate race

John Clifton will run against Hillary Clinton

The New York LP has nominated its first-ever state wide African-American candidate — and he will take on Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton and Republican Rick Lazio in what is sure to be the highest-profile U.S. Senate race in the country.

John Clifton, 41, a Queens social worker and drug counselor, won the LP nomination at the state convention in Yonkers on April 29, defeating two other candidates.



■ John Clifton for U.S. Senate

GOP Congressman Lazio in the marquee Senate race of 2000 — and said he expects to "make a difference" in the election.

"My intent is to have at minimum a margin-of-difference effect

After New York Libertarians finish collecting the 15,000 signatures needed to place him on the ballot by the August 21 deadline, Clifton will face off against the First Lady and

on the vote tally, costing one of the statist candidates the election," said Clifton. "This will make the

See **CLIFTON** Page 20

Side

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LP candidate speaks at DC pro-gun rally

■ **PAGE 14**
Advocates honor "Lights of Liberty"

NewsBriefs

Filtering the "obscene" Democrats

Democrats are obscene. Libertarians are not. At least, that seems to be the judgment of America Online's "youth filter" software, which reportedly blocks access to the Democratic National Committee's website by children — but doesn't block the Libertarian Party's site.

According to columnist Brian Livingston at www.NationalGayLobby.org, the AOL filtering software warns online political voyeurs that the DNC's site is "Not Appropriate for Children."

And that makes perfect sense to one Libertarian.

"Well, Democrats are political pornography, aren't they?" asked Bill Winter, LP Communications Director. "They support an obscenely large federal government; they perform indecent acts on the Bill of Rights; and they're motivated by a lewd lust for power. You can make a compelling case that children *should* be protected from such a perverse political site."

The AOL filtering software — which is designed to help parents protect their children from pornographic or violent websites — also blocks access to the Green Party's and the Reform Party's websites, as well as the websites of the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, Safer Guns Now, and the Million Mom March, reported Livingston in his April 24 column.

But Libertarians shouldn't feel too superior: The filters do allow children access to the Republican National Committee's website and to the *über-conservative* Constitution Party's website — "so apparently hypocrisy and theocracy are OK for children," said Winter.

Art Bell quits the radio business

Art Bell, the nation's most popular late-night radio talk show host and a Libertarian Party member, has retired from his nationally broadcast show.

Citing personal reasons, Bell signed off his highly rated "Coast to Coast" and "Dreamtime" programs on April 26. He was replaced by veteran talk show host Mike Siegel.

The fourth most-popular radio talk show host in America, Bell's two shows — which covered topics from the "prosaic to the eccentric," including UFOs, current events, government cover-ups, paranormal events, and politics — aired on over 380 stations across the United States, drawing up to 15 million listeners per episode.

His "Coast to Coast" was the number one show in its time slot.

Bell, 54, joined the LP on the air in May 1998, telling his listeners that the LP "is one stronger tonight."

"I am proud and happy to have found a [political] home," he said at the time. "The Libertarian Party is the only viable alternative to the Republicans and Democrats [and] is the closest ideologically to what I now believe. I really believe in freedom."

Bell said he quit his show to help his son, who was drugged and molested by an HIV-positive teacher at his school several years ago. The assailant has since gone to prison.



■ **Art Bell:** Has quit his show

Party withdraws from FEC lawsuit

The Libertarian National Committee (LNC) has voted to withdraw from a lawsuit against the Federal Election Commission.

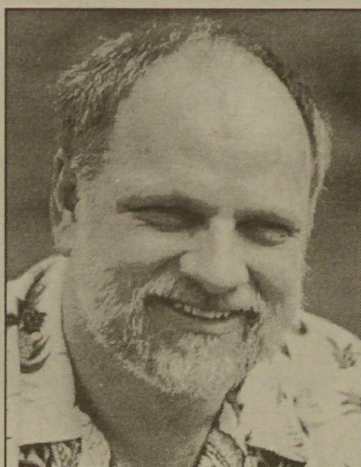
By mail ballot vote in late May, the LNC voted 10-8 not to override a previous Executive Committee vote to withdraw, removing the party from the lawsuit it had joined on May 8.

LNC members opposed to participation said the lawsuit violated Libertarian principles because it attempted to restrict the ability of corporations and unions to contribute to presidential debates.

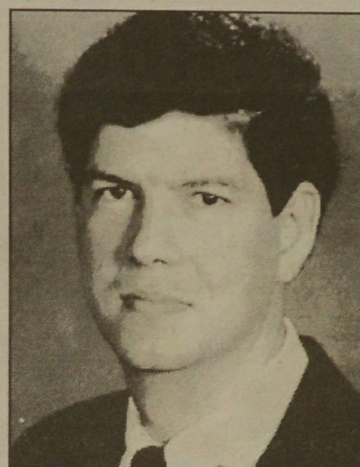
The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in New York by the Committee for a Unified Independent Party, sought an injunction that could prevent the 2000 presidential debates from taking place.

The lawsuit charged that the FEC's Debates Regulation, which lets non-profit corporations stage presidential debates and accept funding from corporations and unions to defray the costs, violates the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971.

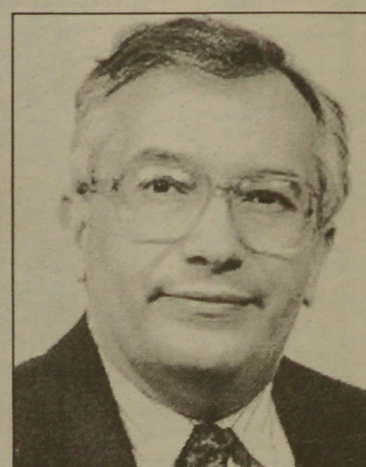
Federal law specifically prohibits corporations and unions from contributing to partisan federal campaigns, but the FEC ruled that the presidential debates do not qualify as partisan activity — despite the fact that the Commission on Presidential Debates is made up entirely of Republicans and Democrats and has written restrictive debate entry guidelines that favor Republican and Democratic presidential candidates.



■ **Gary Copeland:** He's running for LNC Chair to "double the registered Libertarians [and] double membership."



■ **Jim Lark:** If elected LNC Chair, he will work on "improving the process of recruiting and training new activists."



■ **George Phillies:** As LNC Chair, he will build "strong committees, strong candidates, and competent staffers."

Convention delegates will pick presidential ticket and new LNC

Continued from Page 1

tional chairman Jack Gargan, Ayn Rand biographer Barbara Branden, LP founder David Nolan, singer/songwriter Melanie, National Taxpayers Union president John Berthoud, *Waco: A New Revelation* producer Mike McNulty, and dozens more.

But highlighting the Convention for most delegates — and attracting the most attention from the media — is the race for the LP presidential nomination, which will bestow 50-state ballot status on the winner.

The four active candidates for the nomination are (in alphabetical order):

■ **Harry Browne**, bestselling investment author and the party's 1996 presidential candidate. If nominated, Browne promised to work to "make all Americans aware that there's a party that wants to set them free, to reduce government to its constitutional limits, to free them from the income tax, to let them out of Social Security, [and] to end the insane War on Drugs."

■ **Don Gorman**, former four-term N.H. State Representative. If nominated, Gorman said he will work to "build the strongest possible foundation for this party, helping to elect Libertarians in every position they can win." To do that, he will "cross the country, appearing with local candidates, [and] supporting them in every way I can."

■ **Barry Hess**, Arizona businessman. If nominated, Hess will "give [an] honest, full-out effort to return control of the White House to the dictates of the Constitution in this election year" and "take the message of Freedom beyond the confines of the Libertarian Party."

■ **Dave Hollist**, 1998 candidate for U.S. House in California. If nominated, Hollist will propose to voters "a voluntary system whereby we hire our government to enforce our contracts."

Equally interesting for many

Libertarian National Convention

WHEN
June 29-July 3, 2000

WHERE
Marriot Hotel,
Anaheim, California

REGISTRATION
See Page 17

delegates is the three-way race for the two-year position of LNC chairman. The party's chair is the "Chief Executive Officer" of the LP, setting broad policy goals and managing the party's paid staff.

The three candidates for chair are (in alphabetical order):

■ **Gary Copeland**, a California resident, who has held several positions in the Orange County LP. If elected, Copeland "will double the registered Libertarians, double the membership, and design a permanent process for party growth."

■ **James W. Lark**, a Virginia resident, current LNC member, and Vice Chairman of the Virginia LP. If elected, Lark will focus on "reaching out to young people,"

"improving the process of generating, recruiting, and training new activists," "improving membership retention," and "improving ways to leverage work by Libertarian movement organizations, especially think tanks."


■ **George Phillies**, a Massachusetts resident, chairs the Central Massachusetts Liberty Coalition and the Pioneer Valley Libertarian Association. If elected, Phillies will work for a "rejuvenated National Party based on member-activism, not fundraising gimmicks" and will make "honesty, transparency, and moral suasion replace accusations, suspensions, and litigator's bills."

LP Platform

Delegates will also vote on changes to the LP Platform — and expected topics of debate include abortion, the death penalty, and the World Trade Organization.

"Whether you go to be part of history, to chart the future direction of the party, to hear the great line-up of speakers, or to enjoy meeting your fellow Libertarians, this is a Convention you won't want to miss," said Bergland.

For more information about the Convention or to register, visit: www.LP.org/conv/2000/. Or call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776.



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EDITOR EMERITUS:
Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994



■ Petitioners (l-r) Darryl Bonner, Lynn Atherton, Tina Lewis, Scott Kohlhaas, Wes Dirkson, Marc Brandl, Mark Hildenberg, and Doug Scribner count and collate ballot access signatures in a hallway of a hotel in Tulsa, Oklahoma on May 30 — the day before the turn-in. Also part of the last minute effort, but not shown: Richard Prawjenski and Paul Frankel.



■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger and Lynn Atherton, in front of the Oklahoma Capitol Building, get ready to turn in seven cartons of signatures on May 31.

LP earns ballot spot in Oklahoma

The Libertarian Party has completed the “biggest, baddest, hardest” ballot drive of the year by turning in over 98,000 signatures in Oklahoma.

On May 31, LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger and LP activist Lynn Atherton delivered seven cartons of signed ballot access petitions to the Secretary of State at the Capitol Building in Oklahoma City. By doing so, the LP became the first third party to qualify in that state this year.

“We made it,” said Crickenberger, who had spent the previous two weeks in the state, personally supervising the drive. “Thanks to the tremendous support we received from Libertarians all across the country, we finished the drive with a roar, and dodged this ballot access bullet.”

Worst in nation

The drive had been in danger, he said, because the state’s ballot access laws are “the worst in the nation” — requiring 84,418 valid

signatures, plus thousands of extras, since many signatures may be rejected by the state for technical reasons.

“[In Oklahoma], you have to collect more signatures from fewer people than in any other state,” he noted.

In addition, petitioners from the Reform Party and the Natural Law Party were competing for signatures, the temperature was frequently over 100 degrees, and police repeatedly threatened pe-

See **OKLAHOMA** Page 19

New LP website is a hit with members

The Libertarian Party’s new website has received an “overwhelmingly favorable” reaction from both party members and the general public, LP National Director Steve Dasbach has reported.

“The early reviews are in, and the new website is a hit,” he said. “People are praising it for its professional, attractive appearance, ease of navigation, wealth of information, and speed of loading.”

“Based on what we’ve heard so far, we seem to have accomplished our goal of creating a 21st Century website that is better than what the Republicans or Democrats offer.”

Personalization

The party’s new website — www.LP.org — went online in late May, and features personalization technology that can automatically provide visitors with information on local LP activity; an expanded issues section; a “tell a friend” option; a Press Center designed to guide members of the press through the site; and a beefed up *LP News* section.

The site also features a complete graphic overhaul, with a new professional design, more photographs, and graphical links. As the site evolves, it will also feature a vastly expanded issues section, maintained by LP volunteers around the country, said Dasbach.

“This new site will be truly interactive, and will allow Liber-

STEVE DASBACH:

The “website is better than what the Republicans or Democrats offer.”

tarian Party members to play a greater role in defining and explaining the party to voters,” he said.

Some early comments about the new site:

■ “The new web site is simply spectacular. Clear, easy to navigate and full of good information. Hats off to the gang for a job well done.” —Scott P. Cook

■ “I congratulate you and whomever created the new LP.org. It is informative and the best website of any political party. The Republicans and Democrats could learn a lesson from your site.” —Alfred Cummings

■ “Being a graphic designer (for a web development firm), and an LP follower for the past five years, I have to say this redesign is very, very good. I believe that the LP now has the 21st century tool it needs to reach out to the masses.” —Gary T. DuVall

■ “I just discovered your new website.” —See **WEBSITE** Page 14

LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger named ‘Rising Star’

In a first for any third party, Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger has been named a “Rising Star of Politics” by the nation’s leading campaign magazine.

Crickenberger, 44, was listed as a Rising Star in the May 2000 issue of *Campaigns and Elections* magazine, a Washington, DC-based publication that focuses on political strategy and campaign management.

The honor — won in part for his role in helping to boost the number of Libertarians holding public office by 400% — is a sign of the growing stature of the LP, said Crickenberger, who became the LP’s first fulltime, professional Political Director in 1997.

“This award is as much for our candidates as it is for me,” he said. “The phenomenal growth of the Libertarian Party would not be possible without each and every one of them.”

The Rising Star recognition is given to individuals who are “important players on the ascendancy, people who are making

their mark in campaign consulting and management, party organization and issue advocacy,” according to the magazine.

Over 200 political professionals were nominated by the magazine’s staff, Senators, Congressmen, major party national committee members, and political consultants — tough terrain for a Libertarian, said Crickenberger. From those nominees, just 61 received the Rising Star award.

Crickenberger’s nomination came from Alan Locke, the director of the magazine’s frequent political seminars.

Impressed

“I’ve worked with him on several occasions, and sat on many of the panels at their seminars,” Crickenberger said. “Alan knows of my efforts to professionalize LP campaigns, and I think he has been impressed.”

Nonetheless, Crickenberger said he was surprised when he got the call from *Campaigns and Elections* in late April.

“I was stunned,” he said.



■ LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger (second from left) has been named a “Rising Star In Politics” by *Campaigns and Elections*. He’s shown here at a reception for the winners in Washington, DC on May 5, accompanied by Libertarian candidates (l-r) Mathew Givens (AL), Frank Brady (TX), Doug Green (NY), and Chris Oellevito (MI). Also shown: LP Deputy Political Director John S. Buckley (second from right).

“Their coverage of third parties has been fairly sparse, and they had not even honored anyone involved with [Minnesota Governor Jesse] Ventura’s third-party victory with an award.”

Crickenberger and his fellow honorees were feted by the magazine at a gala reception in Washington on May 5, where they hobnobbed with members of Congress and Beltway political journalists.

But Crickenberger said he chose to spend his time with a different crowd.

“Several of our Libertarian candidates were there, and I spent most of the evening with them,” he said. “They’re more interesting to me than the bigwigs.”

However, the assembled Democrats and Republicans were curious about Crickenberger’s LP work, and seemed impressed by the party’s achievements, he said.

Accomplishment

“They were very positive,” he said. “A lot asked, ‘Are you guys really going to run Congressional candidates in a majority of districts this year?’ They saw that as quite an accomplishment.”

In winning the award, Crickenberger joins campaign legends like James Carville, Mary Matalin, George Stephanopoulos, and Ralph Reed as a recipient of the honor — company which he said he considers dubious.

“They’re all very talented,” he said. “But I choose to use my talents for good instead of evil.”

NewsPolitics

LP in new third-party encyclopedia

The Libertarian Party has earned a five-page entry in the new *Encyclopedia of Third Parties in America* — and credit for having “changed the political map in America.”

The three-volume *Encyclopedia*, published in January 2000 by M.E. Sharpe, Inc., is a comprehensive examination of almost every third party in American history, from the famous (the Free Soil Party and the Bull Moose Party) to the obscure (The Afro-American Party and the American Beat Party).

Amidst the plethora of past and present smaller parties, the Libertarian Party gets a significant entry that covers the party's founding, history, principles, and presidential campaigns.

In a generally even-handed and accurate overview, the party is given credit for publicizing “many ideas that were [once] considered radical” such as privatizing government services, for challenging ballot access restrictions, and for changing the traditional two-way political map “into a four-way matrix that includes libertarianism and authoritarianism.” The party is also described as “one of the most successful third parties of the post-World War II era.”

Copies of the 880-page *Encyclopedia* (James Ciment and Immanuel Ness, editors) can be purchased for \$275 at mesharpe.com, or by calling (800) 541-6563. It is also available at most major public and college libraries.

Ron Paul wins taxpayers' award

The most Libertarian member of the U.S. House has won recognition as the 1999 “Taxpayers' Best Friend” by the National Taxpayers Union.

On May 17, Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX) was honored by NTU President John Berthoud, who said Paul helped “forestall a fiscal free fall” in Congress by holding the line against “federal spending, taxes, debt, and regulation.”

NTU said that Paul voted against government spending 89% of the time, compared to an average “Taxpayer Score” in the U.S. House of only 41%.

Paul, who represents Texas's 14th District, is an LP Life Member, and was the party's presidential candidate in 1988.

Known among his colleagues as “Congressman No” because of his reliable votes against any new or unnecessary spending, Paul said he was pleased to receive the award.

“It is truly an honor to be recognized by the NTU for my dedication to lower taxes and promotion of local control over tax dollars,” he said. “During my tenure in Congress, I have worked hard to put the taxpayer first. It is refreshing to see that my efforts have not gone unnoticed.”

Paul was also named a “Taxpayer Hero” on June 2 by the Council for Citizens Against Government Waste.

Paul, an obstetrician, also represented the state's 22nd District for five terms in the 1970s and 1980s. He is seeking re-election to Congress this fall.

Sara Cotham announces LNC bid

Sara Cotham, who served as Executive Director of the Indiana LP from 1997 to 1999, has announced she will run for Region 3 Rep. to the Libertarian National Committee at the upcoming National Convention.

“The issues I would most like to focus on within the LNC are those relating to the advancement of our only purpose as a political party: To influence the political debate and elect Libertarians to public office,” said Cotham.

“As a team player, I want to bring together all ideas and all sides of our talented membership. I hope to use my background to help other state parties accomplish their similar goals.”

Cotham is the current Political Director of the Indiana LP and served as Vice Chair in 1998. She is also a regional organizer for the Andy Horning for Governor campaign. Professionally, she works as director of membership development for an international culinary institute based in Louisville, Kentucky.

During her tenure as Executive Director in Indiana, the number of organized county parties doubled, donations increased sevenfold, and media increased “exponentially,” she said.

LNC Regional Representatives will be selected by delegates at the party's National Convention in Anaheim, CA, June 29-July 3.



■ Ron Paul:
An 89% score



■ Sara Cotham:
LNC Reg. 3

Harry Browne surpasses 1% mark in three new national opinion polls

Harry Browne has made it on to the “political radar screen” by showing up in three national presidential preference polls over the past month.

Browne, one of the four active candidates for the Libertarian Party's presidential nomination, appeared at 1.1% in a recent Zogby poll, 1.0% in a Gallup poll, and 1.1% in a Rasmussen poll.

The three polls were all released between June 1 and June 8, and were based on nationwide phone surveys of approximately 1,000 to more than 2,000 potential voters.

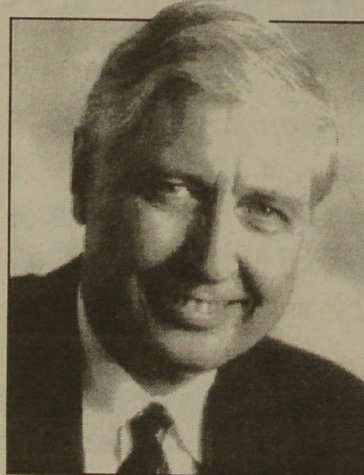
New era

“This entry into the polls may be the start of a new era of Libertarian politics,” said Browne, the party's 1996 presidential candidate and bestselling investment author. “It is an indication that we're starting to get the visibility we have craved for so long.”

“This is a major breakthrough for the LP. Getting into the public opinion polls means we're being treated as relevant to the contest. We are being noticed.”

According to the Zogby poll, Browne was only about one percentage point behind probable Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan, who had 2.3%. And Browne trailed Buchanan 2% to 1% in the Gallup poll, with Green Party candidate Ralph Nader getting 3%.

“It is noteworthy that I'm not very far behind Ralph Nader and



■ Harry Browne, who is at 1.1% in a new national presidential preference Zogby poll: “We are being noticed.”

Pat Buchanan, two candidates who began their campaigns with far greater name recognition and a lot of attention from the press,” said Browne.

The inclusion of a Libertarian candidate in public opinion surveys is important, said Browne, because “these polls are reported widely in the wire services and newspapers” — and they show the presidential “race as being five-way [between George W.] Bush, [Al] Gore, Nader, Buchanan, and Browne.”

The polling companies did not explain why they decided to include Browne in their surveys, or why he was selected over any of the other candidates for the LP's nomination.

If the current polling numbers hold up through November, it would result in a million-plus votes for the Libertarian presidential candidate.

But Browne Campaign Manager Perry Willis said he expects those numbers to increase in the coming months.

“If voters see that other Americans are supporting Harry Browne, they'll be much more likely to support his candidacy in November,” he predicted.

“Better still, due to the margin of error, we are now very close to Pat Buchanan and gaining ground on Ralph Nader. We have yet to receive the kind of media attention that Buchanan and Nader have enjoyed, but in July we'll have our nationally televised convention, broadcast a series of ads on national TV, and begin a massive media tour.”

Chugging up

With the nationally televised LP convention in July — and planned TV ads starting in July as well — “we expect our outreach efforts to keep us chugging up the polls,” said Willis. “Our experience is that when people hear Harry Browne, they embrace his message.”

In other campaign news, Browne was invited in early June to participate in DNet — the Democracy Network — an online project of the League of Women Voters.

See **BROWNE** Page 19

Don Gorman rips Texas death penalty; vows to 'never forget' Waco tragedy

Libertarian presidential candidate Don Gorman “messed with Texas” on two big issues in May and June, blasting the state's death penalty and vowing to visit the site of the 1993 massacre at Waco.

On May 29, Gorman excoriated Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the likely Republican presidential nominee, for continuing frequent executions in the state that has executed more felons than any other.

“I was on the Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee in the [New Hampshire state] Legislature,” Gorman said from his New Hampshire home. “I saw the death penalty up close. You don't get put to death because you're guilty. You get put to death because you needed a good lawyer and were too poor to afford one.”

Of Bush's death penalty record, Gorman said, “I know people see that W. is a bit slow,



■ Don Gorman (right) urges LP members Rae Christiansen and Rob Hersfeld to sign up as a Libertarian candidates at the Colorado LP convention on April 15 — and said, if he wins the party's presidential nomination, “it is my intention to come back to Colorado” to work with local candidates.

but this is truly Bush league thinking.”

Gorman also repeated his pledge to visit Waco, Texas, dur-

ing the campaign, and said he will speak at the site of the Branch Davidian homestead and church,

See **GORMAN** Page 18

Here is the Book You've Been Waiting For!

Harry Browne provides the ammunition you need to show people how much better off they'd be in a Libertarian America.

You've heard it all many times. "What would Libertarians do about Social Security — leave the elderly starving in the streets?"

"How can we stop the drug problem without the War on Drugs?" "Healthcare costs will skyrocket without government controls and regulation — millions of people can't even afford healthcare now!" "Without government intervention corporations will choke the environment with pollution!"

You've heard these and many other misinformed rationalizations for bigger, more-intrusive, ever-growing government.

A government that continuously strips us of our money, property, and freedoms.

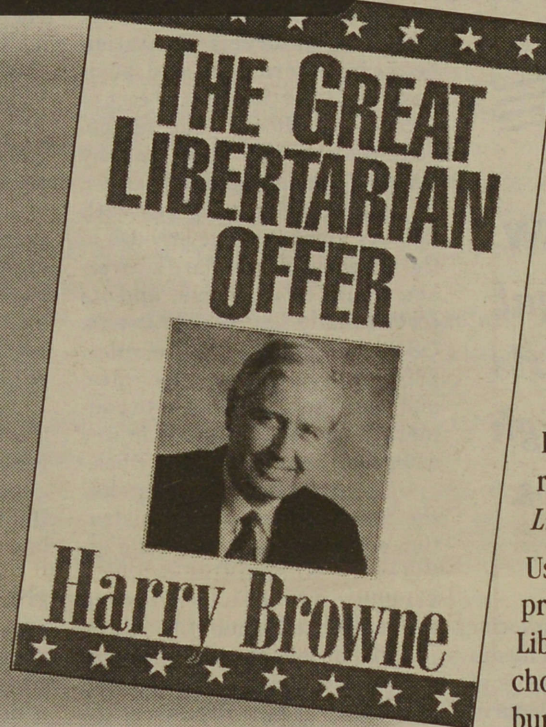
Now Harry Browne answers back with
The Great Libertarian Offer — a Libertarian
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covered, new ways to show people the benefits to them of
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- ★ How a Libertarian President can reduce government dramatically and enhance your liberty on his first day in office — without the consent of Congress.
- ★ How we can rally the American people to give up their favorite federal programs and accept a massive reduction in government.
- ★ How we can get from here to a Libertarian America before the end of this decade.

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Walking Points

Making supermodels illegal and a sensible gun buyback program

Waste from R to D

Once described as the only man to have read the federal budget and lived, in his latest work, *Government Racket 2000: All New Washington Waste from A to Z*, [Martin] Gross revisits some of the worst pork-barrel programs and uncovers many new ones.

The message — despite limited, sporadic progress, big government has a long way to go in slimming down. [For example:]

- One in eight Small Business Administration loans were made to criminals.

- Taxpayers pay \$26 million for presidential nominating conventions, including liquor and entertainment.

- Pork-barrel spending has climbed to at least \$15 billion annually, including \$104,000 to study how people communicate through facial expressions.

— **CAPITAL IDEAS**
March/April 2000

Don't say "picnic"

The scheduling of a picnic to honor baseball Hall of Famer Jackie Robinson led to a furor over alleged racism at the State University of New York, Albany.

Some 40 students at the university insisted that the word "picnic" originally referred to the lynchings of blacks. They were wrong. "Picnic" comes from a 17th-century French word for a social gathering in which each person brings a different food.

But in reply to the 40 protesters, campus affirmative action director Zaheer Mustafa put out a memo asking all student leaders to refrain from any use of the word "picnic."

"Whether the claims are true or not, the point is the word offended," he said.

In publicity for the event honoring Jackie Robinson, the word "picnic" was changed to "outing." This offended gay students, so the event formerly known as a picnic was publicized without a noun describing what was going on.

— **JOHN LEO**
The Washington Times
May 16, 2000

Cracking the fire code

A brand-new, \$1 million fire station in Charleston, West Virginia, as well as the Southampton Street headquarters of the Boston Fire Department, were closed because of fire-code violations.

— **NEWS OF THE WEIRD**
April 30, 2000



SPANISH LAW
makes it illegal for slender girls to model in high fashion shows.

Illegally skinny

The British Medical Association [has] officially blamed media obsession with the superwaifs of fashion for the health problems in many British girls.

[Government] officials have become so alarmed that Women's Minister Tessa Jowell brought fashion mavens to 10 Downing Street for a summit meeting, then called for a ban on the models altogether.

It would not be the first anti-skinny law.

Already, Spanish officials have made it illegal for slim girls to model in Barcelona's high fashion shows because of the "wrong message" it sends to women. Models must be at least a size 10.

— **JENNIFER HARPER**
The Washington Times
June 1, 2000

Repetitive Regulations

"Ergonomics" sounds like one of those made-up words that bureaucrats love. Newer dictionaries define it as an applied science concerned with designing equipment and other "things" with the end-user in mind.

At first blush, that just sounds like applied common sense. However, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has entered the fray and proposes to make a very big deal of the subject. OSHA is moving ahead with a very ambitious Ergonomics Program Standard that is supposed to be a panacea for all "muscular-skeletal

disorders," or MSDs.

According to a new study by Richard J. Mahoney and Milka S. Kirova published by the Center for the Study of American Business, the proposed standard could become the new millennium's first major regulatory confrontation between government and business. OSHA estimates the cost to exceed \$4 billion a year, far beyond the economic burden of any prior OSHA directive.

Almost nobody agrees with OSHA's numbers. The breadth of the ergonomics standard's coverage would be awesome, and its costs equally impressive. It took OSHA 50 pages to cite the rules, 250 pages to explain the rules, and more than 1,000 pages to enumerate the 100 or more injury categories that OSHA describes.

Thus, it is not surprising that the Small Business Administration estimated the cost of the ergonomics standard at between \$11 billion and \$63 billion. Private estimates are higher still.

The development of the ergonomics standard is a fascinating case study of how regulators expand their role. Initially, the standard was supposed to address the problem of repetitive motion disorders such as carpal tunnel syndrome that sometimes result from prolonged physical activities causing repeated trauma to muscles, nerves, connective tissue, or joints.

Unfortunately for OSHA's expansive regulatory plans, the number of repeated trauma cases peaked at less than 350,000 in 1994 and fell to about 250,000 in 1998 (less than 5% of the occupational injuries and illnesses re-

ported for the year).

But it would be naive to think OSHA would drop the matter just because the problem was being solved without intervention.

Instead, OSHA broadened the scope of the ergonomics standard to include "overexertion" activities such as sprains, strains, tears, backaches, hernias, and fatigue and also "bodily reaction" injuries that result from bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, and twisting.

— **MURRAY WEIDENBAUM**
Intellectual Ammunition
May/June 2000

A real buyback

"Every gun turned in through a buyback program means potentially one less tragedy," President Bill Clinton declared at a September 9, 1999 White House photo-op. Clinton was announcing that the Department of Housing and Urban Development would be allocating \$15 million to buy up to 300,000 guns from private citizens.

Unfortunately, such programs have serious flaws. For instance, gun buyback programs have made no attempt to round up the guns of one of the most aggressive groups in society: Federal lawmen.

However, after the Elian Gonzalez raid, it is clearly time to reduce the number of machine guns in the hands of the INS, the Border Patrol and other federal law enforcement agencies.

In the now-famous photograph, a Border Patrol agent pointed an HK MP-5 toward a 6-year-old boy and his fisherman rescuer. The HK fires 800 rounds a minute. Most experts agree that, when carrying out a nighttime raid on a home with unarmed men, women and children, weapons firing only 700 rounds a minute are sufficient.

— **JAMES BOVARD**
The Los Angeles Times
May 3, 2000

But it's the biggest 7%

On average, the federal government provides only about 7% of a state's total education dollars. But [a newly released National Capital Strategies, Inc.] report warned this figure fails to reflect

the "massive amount of control that is imposed on states."

A survey conducted as part of NCS's study revealed that almost one-third of the public think the federal government provides more than half [the] money spent on education. Only one in six correctly estimated the federal government's share at less than 10%.

— **SCHOOL REFORM NEWS**
June 2000

Take your job and...

The Government Accounting Office said the amount of time businesses and governments spend reporting to the EPA rose 9% (a 10 million hour increase) from 1995 to 1998, despite a congressional edict to cut paperwork.

According to the *Washington Post*, EPA Administrator Carol Browner claims the agency has eliminated 26 million hours of paperwork. This is offset, she says, by the Lord's work she and her colleagues must carry out.

"At the same time we are streamlining existing programs, we have been expanding other programs," Browner told a congressional panel. "That is our job."

— **COMPETITIVE ENTERPRISE INSTITUTE UPDATE**
April 2000

Oinker Awards

Recognizing dogged perseverance in the mad pursuit of pork, Citizens Against Government Waste has awarded its Oinkers [Awards] of 2000.

- The Piracy of the Potomac Award to Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Mississippi Republican, for procuring a \$375 million amphibious assault ship for his district the Navy doesn't want.

- The Bridge Over Troubled Fiscal Waters Award to Sen. Ernest Hollings, South Carolina Democrat, for \$1 million for the Limehouse Bridge, which is used by patrons of golf resorts on Kiawah and Seabrook Islands.

— **JOHN MCCASLIN**
The Washington Times
May 30, 2000

Do as I say, not...

Rosie O'Donnell, fast becoming the nation's most outspoken anti-gun extremist, has been having a tough time lately.

Last week, it was revealed that one of the beleaguered talk-show host's bodyguards has applied for a permit to carry a concealed firearm in Connecticut. In light of her past statements that only the police should be allowed to own firearms, and that gun owners should be jailed, this latest revelation had many calling O'Donnell a hypocrite.

Rosie's next attempt to defend her hypocrisy came on [June 1], when she appeared on NBC's *Today* [and revealed] that she has armed security protecting her home from time to time — while at the same time she continues to promote restrictions on Americans who wish to provide for their own protection.

— **NRA-ILA FAX ALERT**
June 2, 2000

"The love of liberty is the love of others."

— WILLIAM HAZLITT

Libertarians love liberty so much that we don't want it just for ourselves... we want it for everyone. And we've dedicated our lives to turning that goal into reality.

But why should our love of liberty cease at the end of one lifetime? Don't let it. Name the Libertarian Party in your will or insurance policy — and let your love of liberty (and love of others) live on. For a confidential discussion of this option, contact national LP Treasurer Mark Tuniewicz at (508) 472-5321. Or e-mail him at: Treasurer@lp.org.

“Carla Howell could make history.”

—Associated Press (5/17/00)

Will Big Government Ted Kennedy be forced to Debate Libertarian Carla Howell?

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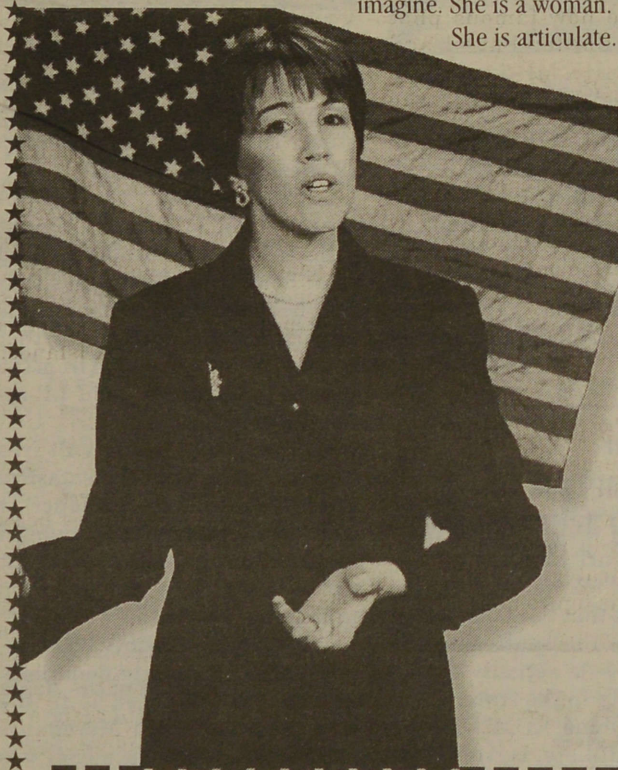
We're on the ballot.

Newspapers and TV News are saying fantastic things about the Carla Howell small government is beautifulsm Libertarian US Senate campaign.

What the News Media Says

1. Woburn Advocate writer, Rick Cooper:

“I had the opportunity to hear Carla Howell speak — and a more complete contrast to Kennedy would be hard to imagine. She is a woman. She is articulate.”



She has integrity. She believes in small government. If Kennedy has to debate her, the Democrats will have reason to shake, because Carla Howell will challenge the core beliefs of Kennedy Democrats and give them a true choice between more Kennedy-style Big Government or Carla Howell's 'small government is beautiful' Libertarian vision. Even Republican town committees have been asking her to speak.”

2. Associated Press writer, Steve LeBlanc:

“She's Libertarian Carla Howell and, barring a last-minute Republican miracle, she could be the toughest competition that US Sen. Edward M. Kennedy faces in November.”

3. Janet Wu, WCVB-TV, ABC reporter:

“Carla Howell is one serious challenge to Senator Ted Kennedy.”

4. MetroWest Daily News, Headline:

“Here Come the Libertarians.” at the top of a major 2 page article on the Carla Howell Libertarian US Senate campaign and the other 17 Libertarian candidates in Massachusetts.

5. The Standard-Times:

“But the challenge to US Senator Edward Kennedy by Libertarian Carla Howell promises a fundamental difference of opinion among candidates not seen in a long time.”

6. The Daily Times Chronicle columnist,

Wendell H. Woodman writes:

“Carla Howell is a very bright lady. She's probably 60 IQ points taller than Ted Kennedy — Carla Howell is an able saleslady for the Libertarian message. She does not have to face an empty chair in order to beat Ted Kennedy in a debate.”

The Nitty-Gritty Hard Stuff

Your help has brought us this far. But we're not done working for you. We're not done working for Liberty. We're just starting.

We just ordered 15,000 more bumper stickers that say Carla Howell, Libertarian for US Senate, small

government is beautifulsm.

We have to organize and mobilize hundreds of volunteers to put them on 15,000 cars. Seen by 1,500,000 people each week. Every week they're on.

We just ordered 10,000 more yard signs.

We have to organize and mobilize hundreds of volunteers to put them up in 10,000 yards. Seen by over 540,000 people each week. Every week they're up.

We've already put over 4,317 bumper stickers on cars. We've already put up over 481 yard signs.

We've already recruited and mobilized 274 campaign volunteers. Now we need more volunteers.

Bumper Stickers and Yard Signs. When we build them the volunteers will come.

Putting bumper stickers on cars, putting yard signs up in front of people's homes across Massachusetts — this is the hardest work. It's nitty-gritty, sweaty, and thankless.

But Massachusetts Libertarians will provide the time, if you'll provide the money.

Will you meet Massachusetts Libertarians half way in this historic US Senate race?

Too Big to Exclude, Too Big to Ignore

Big Government Ted Kennedy can run, but he can't hide.

Not when 1,500,000 Massachusetts voters have seen our Libertarian small government is beautifulsm bumper stickers.

Not when 540,000 Massachusetts voters have seen our Libertarian small government is beautifulsm yard signs.

Not when tens of thousands of Massachusetts voters hear us on talk radio. See us on TV. And read about us in every newspaper in the state.

Not when we follow this up with \$300,000 in TV ads.

Help us Make History

We'll do the nitty-gritty hard stuff. We'll roll up our sleeves. We'll come in early and work late. We'll give up time with our friends and families.

But we can't do it without you.

“small government is beautifulsm” would be so widely covered by TV, Talk Radio, and Newspapers — that even Big Government Ted Kennedy would have to share the stage with Libertarian Carla Howell.

\$1,000 will fund 8 Carla Howell TV ads — seen by 320,000 voters.

\$250 will fund 5 Carla Howell radio ads on major stations — heard by 75,000 voters.

\$85 will fund 100 Carla Howell bumper stickers — seen by 10,000 people every week.

\$65 will fund 26 Carla Howell yard signs — seen by 1,400 people every week.

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— small government is beautiful —

NewsAffiliates

Dropping Reform to #4, saving Main Street's churches, and curing a spending 'addiction'

■ CALIFORNIA

'Operation Breakthrough' will recruit candidates

The state LP hopes to surpass its goal of 200 Libertarians on the ballot this year with an "aggressive and ambitious" candidate recruitment project, Executive Director **Juan Ros** announced in May.

Activists working on "Operation Breakthrough" will obtain precinct data from the entire state and compare it with the list of California's 87,000 registered Libertarians, he said. From that large pool, they will work the phones seeking at least 200 candidates by August.

"The timeline is very tight, but the plan is sound, feasible, and could be a real breakthrough — hence the name — for Libertarian candidates in California," he said.

And Operation Breakthrough may well lead to more Libertarians in office in the future, predicted Ros.

"The information compiled by Operation Breakthrough will allow us to print out a list of the local offices up for election in any given year, and the LP members and registered Libertarians who are eligible to run for those offices," said Ros. "The possibilities for using this information are endless."

■ ILLINOIS

Chicago gun rally sparks national media attention

The Libertarian Party of Chicago parlayed its counter-rally to the Million Mom March into a bonanza of TV, radio, and newspaper coverage — including a mention in *USA Today*.

"Our rally was a huge success," said local LP activist **Stephanie Sailor**.

The Libertarian rally on May 14 was one of numerous pro- and anti-Million Mom March events around the USA on Mother's Day. But few of those rallies attracted the "overwhelming amount of media coverage" the one in Chicago did, said Sailor.

"We had appearances in the Chicago *Sun-Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, local ABC, NBC," she said. "I was even interviewed by Newsweek, although they unfortunately didn't print it. I also debated live on Chicago's top evening talk show. It was particularly refreshing to open up a copy



LP State Chair speaks at "Give It All Back" rally in Minnesota

■ Minnesota LP State Chair **Charles Test** (center, in tricorn hat) speaks at the ninth annual "Give It All Back Now" rally at the state Capitol building in St. Paul on April 15.

The rally — which attracted a crowd of about 5,000 people — demanded that the governor and legislature return the state's \$1.8 billion surplus "to the people who created it — the taxpayers," said Test.

"Always measure your elected legislators and candidates by their actions, not their words," he said. "We've learned this the hard way with [Governor] Jesse Ventura campaigning with libertarian rhetoric, but governing like a Democrat" — and returning only "25¢ on the dollar" of the state budget surplus.

of *USA Today* to see the Libertarian Party [cited]."

As a result of all the attention, "The word 'Libertarian' was mentioned and printed often," she said.

■ MICHIGAN

New law will criminalize minor campaign errors

A new state campaign finance law threatens to make "innocent errors" by candidates a crime — and Libertarians are fighting back with a lawsuit.

The new law, passed by the legislature last year, requires all Michigan candidates to swear under oath that they have filed all legally required "statements, reports, error or omission notice responses, late filing fees, and fines."

If the documents do not bear this out — even if the mistake was unintentional — the candidate could be tried for perjury and sentenced to five years in prison, and face a fine of up to \$1,000.

LPM Executive Director **Tim O'Brien** announced in May that the state LP will be filing a lawsuit against the act by the end of June.

"This law criminalizes inadvertent and innocent errors," O'Brien said. "Little mistakes are easy to make."

■ MISSOURI

Reform Party is No. 4, TV station acknowledges

A Missouri Libertarian has forced a local television station to acknowledge that the Libertarian Party — not the sputtering Reform Party — is actually the #3 political party in the state.

In early June, KOMU-TV, the local NBC affiliate, corrected its website to state that the Libertarian Party is "Number Three and trying harder" in Missouri.

The correction was a victory for local LP activist **Steve Schaper**, who became indignant after the station claimed the Reform Party was larger.

Schaper pointed out to the station that the LP gets more votes than the Reform Party, has more elected or appointed office holders, more county committee people in more counties, and more candidates on the 2000 ballot.

"I convinced them with facts," he said. "The Libertarian Party is larger than the Reform, U.S. Tax-

payers, Green, and independents put together — [and] not just in Missouri but across the U.S."

■ MONTANA

State LP urges: Reject no-privacy 'privacy' law

A so-called "privacy" bill regarding hunting licenses does little to actually protect privacy and should be rejected, the Montana LP has announced.

On May 10, the state LP announced its opposition to House Bill 9, which would end the requirement that state residents provide a Social Security number to obtain a hunting license.

While that sounds good, there's a twist, said State Chair **Mike Fellows**.

"Applicants would still have to provide other identification — which would just be linked back to their Social Security number," he said. "If the legislature really believes in privacy, why don't they just repeal the requirement?"

The reason: Federal funds. Montana would lose money from Washington if it refused to collect the SSNs as the federal government demands.

"Democrats and Republicans will sacrifice privacy for money, every time," Fellows said. "These 'new' ID numbers are nothing new. If it walks like a duck and talks like a duck, it's a duck."

■ NEW JERSEY

County LP: Private help beats federal 'vultures'

State Libertarians have taken advantage of a damaging storm to demonstrate the effectiveness of private charity.

This Spring, the LP of Somerset and Middlesex Counties collected money to help rebuild local homes and businesses that had been ravaged by Hurricane Floyd in 1999 — and then further harmed by inefficient aid from the federal government, said LP activist **John Paff**.

"The government vultures [were] circling after the catastrophe," he said. But bureaucrats were "more interested in giving a monopoly on redevelopment rights to a private company than in helping the victims."

In response, county Libertarians collected private donations, and in May donated it to the Bound Brook Town Merchants Association, where the money was immediately put to use, said Paff.

"Our contribution was able to help re-open at least one restaurant, whose owner told me Libertarians treated her much better than the county officials," he said.

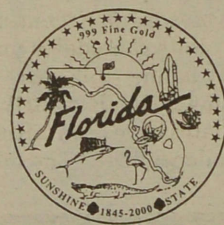
■ NEW MEXICO

County party works to defend religious liberty

San Juan County Libertarians have launched an effort to defend religious freedom from a government assault in one small town.

On April 15, the county LP officially called on the Aztec mu-

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Students plan two new libertarian clubs at Auraria College in Colorado

■ Auraria College in Colorado will have not one but two libertarian organizations on campus this fall, thanks to the efforts of (l-r) Jennifer Armstrong, Dali Magno, Lois Fulton, April Anne Chase, and Jamie Kent.

The students plan to set up "two overlapping clubs," said Chase — "one of which will focus on drug prohibition and the other on freedom issues in general. While neither will be

explicitly Libertarian Party, both will be inherently Libertarian with regard to philosophy and sponsorship."

The clubs plan to host speakers, debates, films, forums, and demonstrations, she said, and the organizers hope to "raise awareness and stimulate critical thinking, which will also promote the secondary goal of increasing support for the Libertarian Party."

municipal government to halt its efforts to ban churches from the town's Main Street. Town officials claimed recent zoning law changes that ban churches and offices of other non-profit organizations is meant to "standardize" the code and prevent traffic backups — but Libertarians see it as religious discrimination, said LP County Chair **Derril Gleim**.

"People and churches have the right to private property, and to the free and peaceful use of it," he said. "That's why we passed a resolution to 'keep Main Street free.'"

In May, the county LP also set up a new storefront office on the street in open defiance of the non-profit rule, said Gleim, which will give the party legal standing to challenge the law in court, if necessary.

■ NORTH CAROLINA

LP: Spending cuts will fight 'spending addiction'

State Libertarians have offered a cure for the state government's "spending addiction" — implement a \$735 million budget cut by trimming spending on advocacy groups, corporate welfare, and "completely useless" agencies.

"The problem is simply our legislature has a spending addiction," said **Sean Haugh**, LPNC executive director, on May 11. "Our suggested spending cuts are all truly no-brainers."

Instead of raising taxes to pay the state's projected \$450 million budget shortfall, he said, legislators should cut:

■ The \$271 million the state takes "from the poor to give to rich

corporate bigwigs."

■ The \$69 million that goes to advocacy groups "whose only job is to lobby the government for more of our tax money."

■ Millions more by selling state-owned railroads, ending "urban loop construction," and sunsetting other "agencies that, at best, [have] outlived their usefulness."

"If our legislators have the guts, this is a list of fraud, waste, and abuse that will make their jobs easier this summer," said Haugh. "Let's hope they come to their senses and take this simple medicine for their horrible spending addiction."

■ PENNSYLVANIA

LP activist files lawsuit over 'unlawful' arrest

Libertarian activist **Julian Hecklen** has filed a lawsuit against Pennsylvania State University police for an "unlawful arrest and detention" that occurred two years ago.

On May 18, Hecklen filed suit against Penn State — where he was once employed as a professor — for mistreatment following his July 9, 1998 arrest.

Hecklen, this year's LP nominee for state attorney general, had been arrested for smoking a hand-rolled cigarette just outside the school's main gate. A campus cop seized the cigarette, which tested positive for THC, the active ingredient in marijuana.

When he could not pay bail set at \$50,000 — 100 times the standard for the charge — Hecklen was sent to prison for four days until a benefactor posted bail.

In October 1998, the charges were dismissed after Hecklen pointed out that "under Pennsylvania law, THC is a legal pharmaceutical drug sold at pharmacies" and not "a component of illicit marijuana."

Hecklen is now seeking \$720,000 plus legal expenses for the "unlawful arrest."

■ TENNESSEE

Party endorses new bill to allow partisan labels

The state party has endorsed a bill that may allow the LP to list its presidential candidate under the party's name on the ballot this November.

"It's important that our nominee be on the Tennessee ballot as a Libertarian, not an Independent," said State Chair **Richard Pearl**. "This will give us added exposure as we continue to develop the Libertarian Party in every county in the state."

H.B. 2594 — which has passed both houses of Tennessee's legislature — would permit any party whose candidate received over 5,000 votes for president in 1996 to list all its candidates under the party banner this year.

Until now, all alternative party candidates have been forced to run as "independent." The bill

would change this — and boost the LP's growth in Tennessee, said Pearl.

At press time, it was still uncertain whether the bill would be signed by the governor.

■ VERMONT

Kudos to Rep. Neil Randall for fighting 'statist' bills

The Vermont LP has publicly saluted Libertarian State Representative **Neil Randall** for "standing against the tide of statist legislation" during this past legislative session.

"Drowned out by the months of debate in Montpelier was the fact that legislators introduced a

mind-numbing 1,185 bills this session," said State Chair **Scott Berkey** on May 23. "Randall stood alone against unnecessary new laws" — and amassed "by far the most libertarian voting record" of any legislator.

Randall, the only Libertarian in the Vermont House, "holds a lonely office," said Berkey. "Vermont today is far removed from the libertarian state carved out of the woods by Ethan Allen and the Green Mountain Boys. This year, we hope to change that."

How? By running 100 candidates in this November's elections, he said — and working to make sure "that several of those candidates will join Neil Randall in Montpelier as part of Vermont's first-ever Libertarian caucus."

■ VERMONT

LP works with teenagers to repeal new license bill

State Libertarians have joined with Vermont teenagers to fight the state's restrictive new Graduated Driver License Law.

On June 5, shortly after the governor signed H-97, the state LP agreed to help teenagers set up an Internet petition calling for the law's repeal. The bill raised the age for full driver's rights to 18 — which could prevent a responsible teenager from serving as a designated driver at a party, said 15-year-old **Jonathan Knutsen**, who is working with the Vermont LP.

"The law penalizes the large majority of responsible teenage drivers for the actions of a handful of irresponsible kids," he said.

The law was passed "so the Vermont Legislature could say, 'See, we did something about teenage drinking and driving,' but it doesn't address the problem," said Knutsen.

Vermont LP webmaster **Hardy Macia** said he was "happy" to assist Knutsen, since this issue "affects our youth and will motivate them to get involved in the political process."

Carla Howell

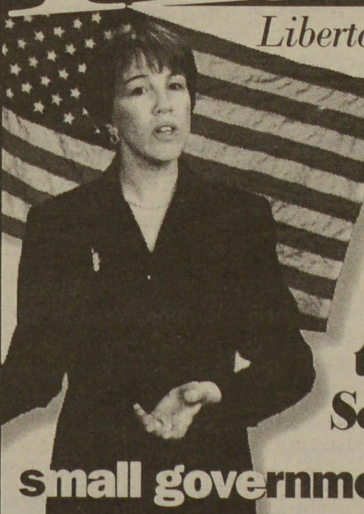
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BookReview

Creating an equal America

Creating Equal: My Fight Against Race Preferences, by Ward Connerly. (Encounter Books, 286 pages. \$24.95.)

By Peter Orvetti
LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

From his childhood as an impoverished African-American in the South to his service on California's Board of Regents, where he launched his crusade against affirmative action, Ward Connerly's memoir *Creating Equal* is a captivating narrative of a personal quest for real freedom.

Even more interesting than the political aspects of the story is his own life story, a journey that has helped Connerly understand why individual freedom is more important than defining oneself by racial identity.

Connerly, of course, skyrocketed to national fame in 1996 when his Proposition 209 — the California Civil Rights Initiative, which abolished government-mandated affirmative action in that state — passed with 54% of the vote. For his trouble, he was savagely attacked by supporters of government racial quota systems, who called him "a lawn jockey for the ruling class."

Undaunted, Connerly turned to Washington state, where he successfully spearheaded a similar initiative in 1998. Now his goal can be summed up by his words: "Two down and 48 to go."

What led Connerly to risk his career and reputation in a quest for racial justice and equality?

Connerly says it started with his poor childhood in segregated Louisiana, where his hardworking, resilient family taught him not to define himself by race. Without money and with an absentee father, he got through college, became a state housing official, entrepreneur, and Regent — all without a push from the government.

And that's no surprise, he argues. Affirmative action policies, far from helping poor blacks like himself and his family, is really "a morally incoherent policy that benefits a handful of middle class blacks." Moreover, affirmative action keeps blacks down, by drumming into young African-Americans' minds the message that they just aren't as good as their white peers.

"Affirmative action was the kissing cousin of welfare, a seemingly humane social gesture that was actually quite diabolical in its consequences — not only causing racial conflict because of its inequities, but also validating blacks' fears of inferiority and reinforcing racial stereotypes," he writes.

Surprisingly, Connerly, who has a reputation as a scrappy fighter for his cause, writes about his crusade in soft tones. The man who took the anti-quota fight to states where politicians shunned him is conciliatory and empathetic towards his foes.

At times, he seems genuinely bewildered that pro-affirmative action forces have reacted to him so harshly, labeling him an "Uncle Tom," a "freak of nature," and even an "Oreo" — black on the outside, white on the inside.

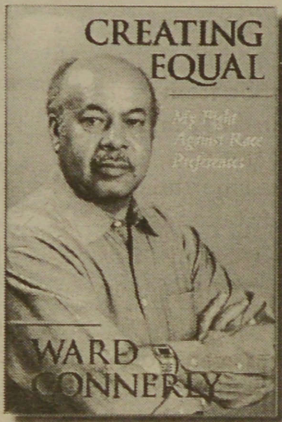
The author responds not with invective but with the example of his own rise in the world — a success story that can, and still does, happen today, he argues.

Stylistically, Connerly's book is masterful. Many readers shudder at the mention of a "politician's book," since most are poorly written pabulum. But Connerly, whose fame rests on his bold views, has no such concerns.

Creating Equal is not, however, a 100% Libertarian work. Its author, after all, has spent much of his adult life as a government official. Still, Libertarians can find a lot to love here. Connerly stresses that economic opportunity, not government incentives, will help minorities rise to a position of equality.

Supporters of affirmative action, on the other hand, are stuck in the past, and "believe that Rosa Parks is still stuck in the back of the bus, even though we live in a time when Oprah [Winfrey] is on a billboard on the side of the bus," he writes.

It was hard work that got Winfrey — and Connerly — where they are today, the author says. And giving every black American the freedom to succeed is the key to even greater achievement, and an even more equal America, in the future.



Libertarian candidate speaks at Armed Informed Mothers March

In a nationally televised speech at the Armed Informed Mothers March in Washington, DC, in May, Libertarian Congressional candidate Sharon Wood told women that "only we can defend ourselves."

Wood, who is running for Congress in Virginia's First District, spoke to about 5,000 gun rights activists at the May 14 demonstration near the Washington Monument. The event was organized by the Second Amendment Sisters, a women's pro-gun group.

The demonstration, broadcast on C-SPAN, was scheduled for Mother's Day to counteract the "Million Mom March," which took place the same day and demanded restrictions on gun rights.

A threat

"We are here today to respond to a threat — a threat [to] ourselves, our families, our friends, our institutions, even [to] the Constitution of the United States," Wood said in her speech. "It's a threat against our homes, our schools, our shops, our factories, even our very lives. And all that we want is to be able to defend ourselves."

Wood, a former prosecuting attorney and the only female LP Congressional nominee in Virginia this year, said the only safe citizenry is an armed one.

"I know how criminals think," she said. "They are lazy and cowardly. Time and time again, they



Photo by Ron Cridenberger

■ LP Congressional candidate Sharon Wood told the crowd at the AIMM rally that gun-control proposals are "a threat [to] ourselves, our families, our friends, our institutions, even [to] the Constitution of the United States."

will tell you that the only thing they fear is an armed public who can defend themselves."

She said gun rights are especially important to women, who risk rape and assault by larger assailants if they do not have a deterrent. For proof that gun control doesn't work, she said, marchers would only have to walk a couple of blocks.

"Right here in the nation's

capital, handguns are outlawed and crime has a field day," Wood said. "In every city and state that does not allow citizens to carry guns for their own protection, crime continues to rise."

"Gun control means a maniac can seize a woman in the park, or break into a private home and rape a woman, and not have to worry about her pulling a gun from her purse or her nightstand and ending his career as a professional rapist."

Not one victim

In her entire career as a prosecutor, "not one rape victim whose case I handled had been armed," she said.

The morning speakers also included Texas Republican State Rep. Suzanna Gratia-Hupp, a leading proponent for the right of citizens to carry concealed weapons. In 1991, Gratia-Hupp was dining at a Killeen, Texas, restaurant when an armed man entered and began shooting, killing 21 people including her parents.

Following the speeches, the AIMM group marched up the National Mall to the Capitol, and were heckled by a few of the "Million" Moms, who actually numbered about 40,000, Wood said. Other estimates of the size of the Million Mom March ranged from 125,000 to 750,000.

Wood was interviewed by several newspapers and was mentioned in an article on *National Review's* website.

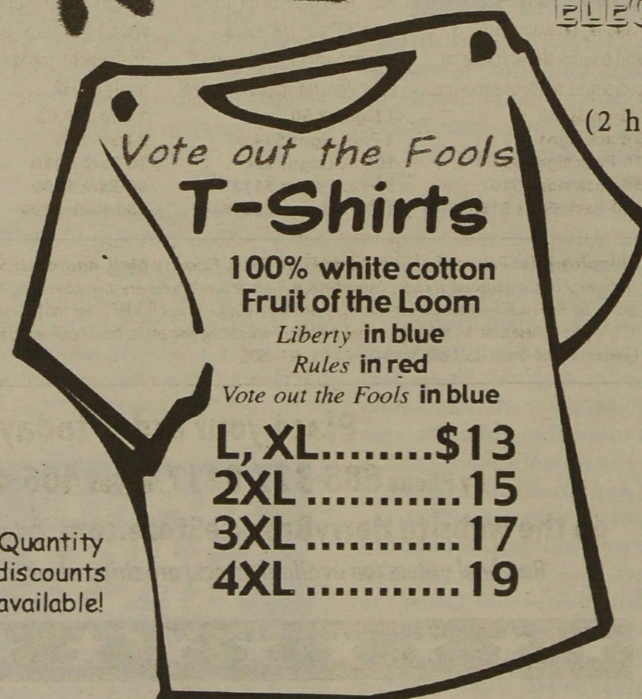
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The Issues

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.

Is the "War on Fat" about to begin?

A National Nutrition Summit held in Washington, DC in late May could mark the beginning of an effort by the federal government to tax, regulate, or ban fatty foods, the Libertarian Party has predicted.

"It's official: The War on Fat has begun — and the first victim of this war could be our right to choose the foods we want to eat," said Steve Dasbach, the party's national director. "If we don't stop them, politicians and bureaucrats will try to do to fatty foods what they've already done to cigarettes."

On May 30-31, several government agencies sponsored a Nutrition Summit that brought together about 1,800 anti-fat activists. Included were federal bureaucrats who have been outspoken about their desire to force Americans into "better" eating habits, including Dr. Rajen Anand, Director of the USDA's Center for Nutrition Policy and Prevention, who has said, "People don't have the knowledge or willpower to select the right kind of food."

The bottom line: Federal bureaucrats don't think you can be trusted to decide what to eat, said Dasbach.

"Consuming fatty foods may not be the smartest thing a person can do, but adult Americans have the fundamental right to choose what they want to eat — without getting permission from a federal bureaucrat," he said.

New bill undermines Fourth Amendment

A new bill that would allow federal law enforcement agents to secretly enter and search your home — without ever notifying you — would "pick the lock" on the Fourth Amendment and demolish your protection against "unreasonable search and seizure," the Libertarian Party has warned.

"This is the ultimate sneak and peek bill," said Steve Dasbach. "It would allow law enforcement agents to invade your home like cat burglars, violate your rights, steal your security, and plunder your property."

The bill, HR. 2987, the Methamphetamine Anti-Proliferation Act, was considered by several House committees in early June.

In vague, seemingly innocuous language tucked deep in HR. 2987 in a section entitled "Notice of Issuance," the legislation would allow federal law enforcement agents to enter your home and search it without notifying you for several months — or ever. Current law requires federal agents to announce their presence before entering, and to show a properly issued search warrant.

Although the legislation is specifically targeted at methamphetamine, legal experts say the secret search provisions could be used by any law enforcement agents — which is why the bill is so dangerous, said Dasbach.

"Methamphetamines may be dangerous — but not as dangerous as HR. 2987, or as dangerous as politicians who want to behave like sneak thieves and rob us of our security, our privacy, and our liberty."

Microsoft break-up: \$200 billion robbery

The Justice Department's plan to break up Microsoft is not just a bad legal decision — it's "bureaucratic grand larceny" that has already stolen more wealth from Americans than all the bank robbers in history, the Libertarian Party charged.

"Move over Jesse James and John Dillinger. There's a new criminal in town that makes you look like amateurs — and it's the antitrust gang at the Justice Department," said Steve Dasbach. "With its decision to eviscerate one of America's most successful corporations, the Justice Department has committed the most costly act of economic vandalism in American history."

Specifically, the Justice Department's decision to try to divide Microsoft into two separate companies caused a massive meltdown in technology stocks. According to financial experts, the plunge in the stock market cost American investors \$150 billion to \$208 billion in lost wealth.

By comparison, the Justice Department reported that bank robbers stole \$28 million in cash in 1994.

"With its Microsoft decision, the Justice Department looted the retirement funds of 80 million Americans who directly own Microsoft stock or invest in a mutual fund that includes Microsoft stock — proving that the Justice Department is more costly than any criminal gang," said Dasbach.

"After all, it takes crooks a whole year to steal \$28 million from banks, but it took the government only one lawsuit to steal \$200 billion from Americans."

Politics into romance

Continued from Page 1

They found friendship — and even love.

The Harrises first met at the 1980 Libertarian Party of Georgia state convention, where they were both elected to the party's Executive Committee. Sharon was married at the time.

"I thought she was friendly, beautiful, smart, radical, principled, good-hearted. And I wondered, sadly, why there weren't some unmarried women like her at LP events," Jimmy says. "We were friends and fellow activists, with never a hint of romance, for several years."

"I liked Jimmy right away," Sharon says. "He was interesting, courteous, intelligent, funny, and a good listener. We became very good friends."

But six years after their first meeting, after Sharon's marriage ended in divorce, their friendship finally turned into romance. It was three years later when they said their unique wedding vows.

Now the couple not only lives together, but works together as well. Sharon is the president of Advocates For Self Government, a non-profit educational institute dedicated to promoting liberty, and Jimmy writes for and edits Advocates' publications.

"I don't at all think love depends on shared political beliefs," Jimmy says, "but it certainly adds a strong common bond. Especially since libertarianism is more than just a party label, it is a philosophy with strong views on ethics and morality."

"Sharing a world-view makes everything more harmonious," Sharon says. "I would not be happy married to someone who was not a libertarian."

Libertarianism "is part of my value system," explains Mark Hinkle, "and a partner that doesn't share those values just wouldn't work."

Mark, State Chair of the Libertarian Party of California, met his wife Linda at a swearing in ceremony after both were elected to county office in California in 1982.

"Concerned that a romantic relationship might ruin a good activist," Mark didn't act on his attraction to Linda for four months. Finally, Linda asked him to join her for a drink, and Mark couldn't say no, even though he didn't drink.

Six years later Mark and Linda were joined in matrimony by Bill White, a minister and one of the founders of the Libertarian Party of California, while "a raft" of other libertarians looked on.

Their shared political beliefs have been essential to their relationship, Mark says.

"It unites us with common values," he says — but can also "cause stress when I pay too much attention to the LP and not to her."

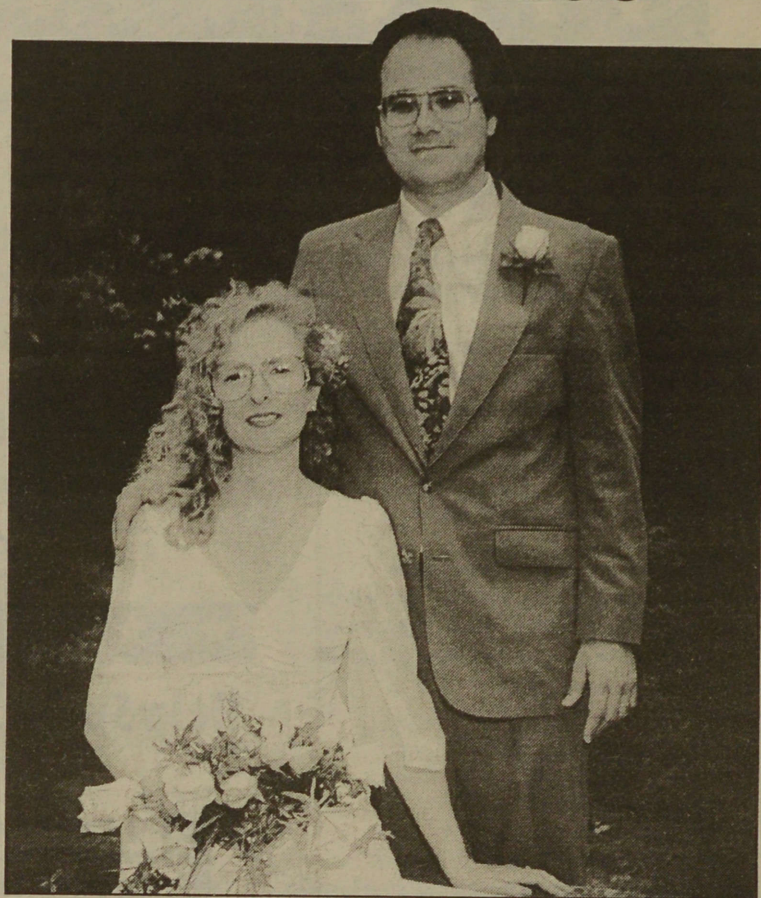


Photo by Ken Rand

■ Sharon and Jimmy Harris on their wedding day on May 19, 1991. "We even had libertarianism mentioned in our wedding vows!" said Sharon. The couple now both work for the Advocates for Self-Government in Cartersville, Georgia.

But she's not shy about letting me know when this occurs."

Today, they send their 8-year-old son Logan to private school and try to reason with him in a libertarian fashion.

"How do you teach a child to question authority, but not *your* authority?" Marks asks with a grin.

"He says he's a libertarian," Mark says. "We're not sure if he fully understands what that means, but the proud parents eat it up anyway."

STEPHANIE:

"I thought he was rude — but very handsome."

Stephanie Yanik first met Perry Willis at the 1996 Libertarian Party National Convention in Washington, DC.

Her first impression of Perry? "I thought he was rude — but very handsome and obviously intelligent," she says.

Perry, then the national director of the LP, was wrapped up in the convention and paid no attention to anyone, which Stephanie says she now understands.

"I now know what he was going through, so I no longer perceive him as having been rude at all," she says, "Though don't tell him that. It makes for great leverage."

Later that year Stephanie and Perry met again at the Separation of School and State Conference in Washington, DC. This time, Perry definitely noticed Stephanie.

"Beautiful, intelligent, articulate, a Libertarian. An unbeatable combination," he says.

After a whirlwind long distance relationship, Stephanie moved from Memphis, Tennessee to Washington, DC to be with Perry a month later.

Today they are Campaign Manager and Assistant Campaign Manager for the Harry Browne For President Committee. They say holding common political beliefs has been especially important, since they are both "professional" libertarians.

"We both have a severe passion for this stuff," says Stephanie, who has the Statue of Liberty tattooed on her arm. "Once America returns to its roots, I suspect we'll look at each other and decide to head to another country to help them see the light. There is no higher purpose than individual liberty, and we are both in our element with libertarianism, spreading the word."

When Valerie Hurd volunteered to make signs for a tax rally last year, love was the last thing on her mind.

But by the time the sign making party was over, she found herself hoping she would run into fellow activist Kurt St. Angelo again soon.

"While we were talking I noticed he was very compassionate. See **FINDING LOVE** Page 13

Finding love in LP politics

Continued from Page 12

and kind and obviously very dedicated to the LP," she says.

Kurt says his first impression was that she was "intelligent, attractive, warm, funny, open-minded, [and] hot."

Within a week they were dating and last December they moved into their Indianapolis home together.

"So far so good," Valerie says.

"At the time I met Valerie, I wouldn't have put her political beliefs at the top of my litmus test of love — but I would now," Kurt says. "What Valerie believes and how she thinks is the essence of who she is and who I love. Not only does she think freely and responsibly in the political realm, but these attributes extend to all parts of her life."

"Sharing the same political beliefs and principles makes it easier to connect with a person in ways I had never thought about in other relationships," Valerie adds. "If I were looking for a relationship now, having the same political beliefs would be a specific criteria."

Libertarian Party Political Director Ron Crickenberger says he fell in love at first sight when he met radio announcer Noelle Stettner at a Blakes 7 fan club.

Blakes 7 is "an anti-statist version of Star Trek," Ron explains. "It has particular appeal to people of Libertarian mindset."

So, Ron set out to capture Noelle's heart, and he did so on Thomas Jefferson's birthday on a remarkably libertarian first date.

"Noelle mentioned that she considered Carole Ann Rand, our recent candidate for governor, a hero," Ron explains. "I called up Carole Ann and asked her if she would perhaps play matchmaker for me and have Noelle and I over for dinner. Carole Ann said sure, and Noelle innocently agreed to my invitation."

After three years of dating, the couple moved into their Virginia home together and now consider themselves married although legally they aren't.

"We don't need any blessing or approval from the government to love each other," Ron says.

Libertarians sometimes say their spouses complain about how much time they dedicate to LP activism, but for Ron and Noelle a common world-view and shared values makes the time apart bearable.

"Ron loves his job, and though I'm a Libertarian and support everything he does, I sometimes become a little jealous of all the late nights and weekends at the office," Noelle says.

"We do joke that she has to come volunteer at the office to even see me," Ron says. "But Noelle is very, very supportive of what I am trying to do, and that means so much to me."

"If I weren't someone who deeply believes in this cause, it would be a real problem," Noelle adds.

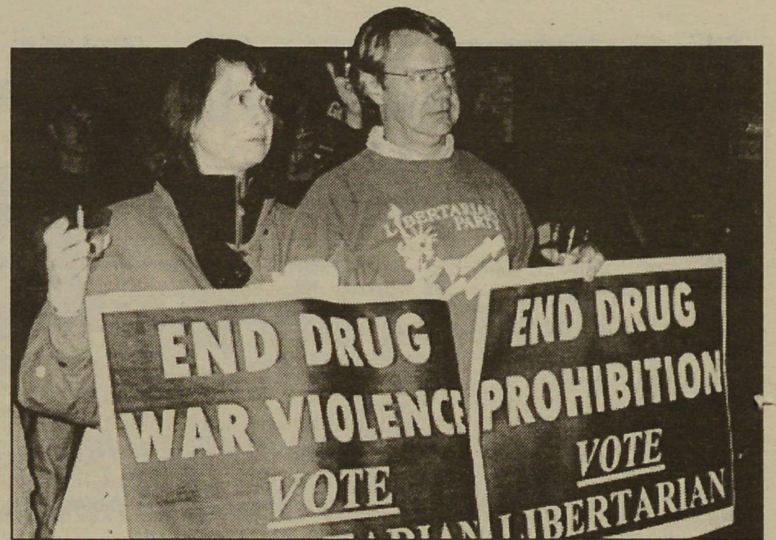
In fact, their relationship is now such a seamless blend of the political and personal, they can't imagine it any other way.

"I recently met a Libertarian who'd been married to a non-political woman for many years. I asked him what his wife's opinion on the Waco massacre was, and he said *he didn't know*,"

Noelle says. "Ron and I are very glad that we know we are in agreement that it's wrong for the government to kill American citizens."

"I really can't imagine having the kind of relationship that couple has."

■ **Ron Crickenberger and Noelle Stettner** — shown here at an anti-War on Drugs rally — have a relationship that is "a seamless blend of the political and personal."



The Advocates for Self-Government Presents... 1999 Lights of Liberty AWARD WINNERS!

The Advocates for Self-Government congratulates the following people for outstanding libertarian activism that reached millions of Americans in 1999 with a positive libertarian message.

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

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

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Scott Kjar

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★★ Paul Marsden
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Ric Pinkerton
Rick Root
Eric Schanke
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■ COLORADO

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■ MONTANA

Scott Butler
Mike Fellows
Leo Frye

■ NORTH CAROLINA

★★ Brian Irving
★★ Elizabeth Vance

■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

Ken Blevens
William R. Discipio, Sr.
★★ Howard Wilson

■ NEW JERSEY

Ken Bank

■ NEVADA

Alice Lillie
JR Reynolds
★★ Brendan Trainor

■ NEW YORK

Linda Pope
Norma Segal
John Swanson
Blay Tarnoff
Brian Wilson

■ OHIO

Dwayne Arquette
★★★ Dave Domanski
Adrian Hinton
Ron Lisy
John McAlister
Pearl Pullman
David T. Terry

■ PENNSYLVANIA

★★ Tom Giles
Lois Kaneshiki
★★ Michael Morrison
John Nulty

Raymond "Doc" Ondrusek
William Shadle
Dave Towers

■ RHODE ISLAND

John H. DeMeo

■ TENNESSEE

Jon Jones
★★★ Richard E. Pearl
Paul Schmidt
Linda Simmons
★★★ Rodney Smith
Jeff Taulman
Michael Brady
★★ Robert K. Restivo
Reed Shahan
Dan Sheard
James Turner

■ UTAH

Ron Amos
Charles Bonsall
Kitty K. Burton
Jim Dexter
Don Johnstun
William Jones
★★ John H. Pack
Chauna Pierce

■ VIRGINIA

★★ Ron Crickenberger
Jacob Hornberger
★★ James W. Lark III
★★ Robert K. McBride
Peter Orvetti

■ VERMONT

Michael Beauchemin

Scott Berkey
★★★ Chris Costanzo
Dan Krymkowski
★★ Hardy Macia
Patricia Richmond

■ WASHINGTON

Chip Barron
Gordon Beeman
Jesse Brocksmit
Chris Caputo
Ed Donaldson
John Evans
David Franta
Eva Hart
Michael Hihn
Robert Hill
Jocelyn Langlois
Ernest Lewis
Steven Lewis
Jennifer McAdams
Matthew McCally
Nathan Messer
Carol Miller
Mary Norton
Dennis Norton
Tim Perman
Donald Post
Mark Andrew Taff
John Tyson
Doug Witt

■ WEST VIRGINIA

Richard S. Kerr, MD

■ WYOMING

Timothy A. De Lany

All winners received a handsome certificate of honor, valuable discount coupons for libertarian products, a 20% discount for the upcoming Advocates 16th Anniversary Celebration, and more. Their names and achievements are featured on an Honor Roll at our Web site, www.self-gov.org.

You can become a 2000 Lights of Liberty winner!

The 2000 Lights of Liberty award program for outstanding libertarian activism is already underway. To learn how to qualify, visit www.self-gov.org. Email: advocates@self-gov.org. Call 800-932-1776.

Advocates for Self-Government, 1202 N. Tennessee St., Suite 202, Cartersville, GA 30120

Note: If you met the requirements in 1998 but aren't on this list, you can still get your award and have your name added to the Honor Roll at our Web site. Contact us.

The Advocates for Self-Government honor '99 Lights of Liberty winners

The Advocates for Self-Government has bestowed Lights of Liberty Awards on 180 libertarians in 31 states for helping to spread "the message of liberty" in 1999.

"We were really excited by the response to the Lights of Liberty Awards this year," said Advocates President Sharon Harris. "We had many more winners this year than in 1998, despite the fact that 1999 was not an election year."

As a result of the actions of the Lights of Liberty winners, libertarian ideas were presented "to literally millions of Americans," she said. "The kind of activism Lights of Liberty encourages is activism that can really make a difference in America."

The Advocates — a non-profit, non-partisan libertarian educational organization — gives Lights of Liberty awards to libertarians who accomplish any one of these three outreach activities:

- Get three or more letters to the editor published in newspapers or magazines that use the words "libertarian" or "libertarianism" in a positive light.

- Deliver three or more prepared speeches to a predominately non-libertarian audience.

- Participate in three or more Operation Politically Homeless booths, an Advocates outreach tool that uses the "World's Smallest Political Quiz" to discover people who are libertarians.

The goals

The Lights of Liberty awards are designed to accomplish three major goals, said Harris.

"We want to recognize and reward hard-working, effective grassroots libertarian activists," she said. "We also want to encourage a lot more of this kind of vital libertarian outreach."

SHARON HARRIS:

"We want to encourage more of this libertarian outreach."

And, the Advocates want to popularize the words "libertarian" and "libertarianism," said Harris.

"For too many Americans, these are still new words and new ideas," she said. "We want the word 'libertarian' to be as familiar to everyone as 'liberal' and 'conservative' are today."

"Lights of Liberty winners are helping that come true by reaching millions of Americans."

219 awards

This was the second year the Advocates for Self-Government has given the Lights of Liberty Awards. This year, a total of 219 awards in the three categories were given to the 180 winners, said Harris.

"[Just] as last year, award winners came from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages," she said. "Jason Miller, a high school student from Hudsonville, Michigan, who won an award in 1998 in the letters category, won again this year with a dozen letters printed. And the youngest winner was 11-year-old Micah Jennison, of Doraville, Georgia, who worked three OPH booth sessions."

Many libertarians went far beyond the minimum requirements, she said. A few examples:

- J.R. Graham (California) did 15 speeches and 10 OPH booths.

- Dan Alban of Georgia did 20 speeches.

- Andrew Horning of Indianapolis, Indiana had over 60 letters and op-eds published. "Horning also pointed out that he painted his family van up like a big Liberty Tart, but no awards were given for Most Libertarian Car," said Harris.

Thirty-five people qualified in two or more categories, said Harris, and five libertarians won the "Libertarian Triathlon" — winning awards in all three categories. They were: Vince Carlton (California), Chris Costanzo (Vermont), Richard E. Pearl (Tennessee), Rodney Smith, (Tennessee), and Scott A. Wilson (California).

"These Libertarian Triathlon winners showed a deep commitment to spreading libertarian ideas," said Harris.

In all, there were Lights of Liberty winners in 31 states, said Harris. California had the most winners, with 30; Washington state had 26; and Georgia had 25.

Lights of Liberty Award winners receive a "Lights of Liberty" certificate, recognition in the Advocates magazine The Libertarian Communicator, a listing on a special webpage, and other prizes.

Underway

The 2000 Lights of Liberty Awards process is already underway, said Harris, and any letters, speeches, and OPH booths from January 1 through December 31, 2000 will qualify for the awards.

For more information about the Lights of Liberty, contact the Advocates at (800) 932-1776. E-mail: advocates@self-gov.org. Website: www.self-gov.org.

The Advocates, based in Cartersville, Georgia, is best known as the distributor of the World's Smallest Political Quiz.



Photo by Jimmy Harris

■ Eleven-year-old Micah Jennison of Georgia was the youngest Lights of Liberty Award winner. She is shown here with her father Paul Jennison — also an award winner — and Advocates President Sharon Harris. They are the kind of "hard-working, effective grassroots libertarian activists who are doing the important work of taking the message of liberty to the public," said Harris.



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Libertarian Party of Chicago

Website: Wow!

Continued from Page 3

site and think it is fantastic! It truly is a 21st Century website. I am sure it will do a much better job of recruiting new members than the older version." —Howard R. Olson, PhD

■ "Outstanding! I'm completely blown away by the professional look of it. Excellent work." —Ken Crissey

■ "Wow! I don't know when I last visited LP.org, but it was a pleasure when I brought it up this morning. I love the redesign! Great job!" —Steven Hilton

■ "I just wanted to say that you guys have done a great job on your website redesign. I can't imagine how it could look better than it does now — I think it communicates precisely the image it should." —Larry Thompson

Carla Howell

Libertarian for U.S. Senate

The Fastest-Growing Libertarian Campaign in America

small government is beautifulsm

SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 7

Libertarian for U.S. Senate

The Fastest-Growing Libertarian Campaign in America

small government is beautifulsm

SEE OUR AD ON PAGE 7

“At last, a self-help course where personal and political responsibility meet!”

— Dr. Mary J. Ruwart

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You know the old problem: While bureaucrats, state educators, state licensed media, state-subsidized industries and entitlement recipients are propagandizing FULL-Time to insure their power and unearned wealth, productive advocates of liberty can work to reverse this onslaught at best as an avocation, since they have jobs and businesses to run. It's not a level playing field. Typically, we haven't had the time to counteract their mythology. If we had, we would have been FREE of their craziness long ago.

Pinnacle Support Systems, the world's first third generation personal empowerment program, offers you the chance to change minds, lives and the world we live in for a profit! If this appeals to you: earning a potential six- to seven-figure annual income from home connecting people to a perpetual support system that empowers them through acceptance of responsibility and which explicitly explains to them the connection of political freedom to their empowerment on a global level, read further.

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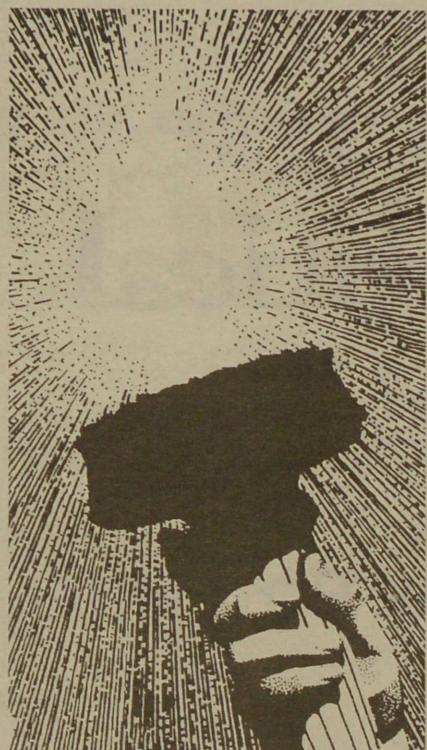
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ANAHEIM, CA • JUNE 29-JULY 3, 2000

America's Future

Liberty, Responsibility & Community

LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION

Panels, workshops, and seminars will round out Convention schedule

An extensive series of seminars, panels, and workshops will "round out" the events at Convention 2000, LP National Director Steve Dasbach has announced.

"The National Convention is not just about nominations, debates, and speakers — it's also about becoming a better, more informed LP activist," he said.

More than a dozen workshops and panels have been scheduled for the Convention, most running concurrently with business sessions, he said. The list includes:

STEVE DASBACH:

This Convention "is about becoming a better activist."

■ A panel on "How to Cut Taxes & Block Government Spending," featuring NTU president John Berthoud, California

anti-tax LP activist Richard Rider, and at least one elected Libertarian TBA. (Friday)

■ A workshop on "Developing and Sustaining a Strong Libertarian Campus Organization," with Virginia LP activist Jim Lark. (Friday)

■ A workshop on "Using Education Freedom as an Issue in Your Campaign," with Separation of School and State Alliance president Marshal Fritz. (Friday)

■ A seminar entitled "I Want to Get Elected," with LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger, campaign managers Barbara Goushaw and Aaron Starr, and elected Libertarians Phil Miller, Tom Tryon, Bonnie Flickinger, and Fred Collins. (Friday)

■ A seminar on "Caring for the Environment: A Libertarian Approach," with Dr. Gordon LaBedz (President, Sierra Club, Los Angeles Chapter). (Friday)

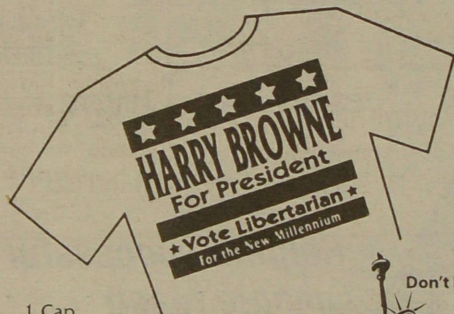
■ A panel on "Privacy: Winning Issue for Libertarians" with LNC member Dan Fylstra, LP Press Secretary George Getz, and Michigan LP Executive Director Tim O'Brien. (Friday)

■ A panel entitled "Adventures in Public Office," featuring elected LP members Phil Miller, Bonnie Flickinger, Tom Tryon, Fred Collins, Bill Masters, Roger Fritz, and Mark Taff. (Saturday)

■ A workshop entitled "Communication Skills for Libertarians," with Sharon Harris, President of the Advocates for Self-Government. (Saturday)

■ A how-to workshop on "Publishing Effective, Professional LP Newsletters," with LP Communications Director Bill Winter. (Saturday)

HARRY BROWNE for President T-shirts



- 1 Cap
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Fundraisers call for quantity discounts! (100 or more shirts)

Note: All net proceeds go to the Harry Browne for President campaign or other Libertarian candidate for President.

Q&A WrapUp

■ Is it too late to register for the Convention?

If you're reading this by June 21 (Wednesday), you can still pre-register. You can register online at: www.LP.org/conv/2000/. Or, you can e-mail your registration to: LPCONV@aol.com. Or, you can fax your registration form to: (202) 234-3884. Or, you can call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776 and register over the phone.

If you're reading this by June 29 (Thursday), you can register in person at the Marriott Hotel in Anaheim, California, starting at 3:00 pm. Or, you can register in-person on Friday at 8:00 am, before the Convention is called to order. (Late arrivals can also register on Saturday, Sunday, or Monday.)

If you are reading this before July 2 (Sunday) you can still attend individual events at the convention — either the free business sessions, or by purchasing tickets for the various entertainment events. (See below).

■ How much do individual tickets cost for various events?

Tickets for the Friday Luncheon (June 30) with David Thibodeau (author, *Waco: A Survivor's Story*) are available for \$50. Tickets for the special Friday night Evening of Entertainment with singer Melanie and comedian Tim Slagle are available for \$30. Tickets for the Saturday Luncheon (July 1) with Barbara Branden (author, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*), are available for \$50. And tickets for the Gala Presidential Awards & Honors Banquet (Sunday, July 2) are available for \$125 each.

■ Is it too late to become a delegate for the Convention?

In many states, there is still time to become a delegate. Some states have not yet filled out their entire delegate slates, and would be able to appoint you as a delegate at the convention. Others still have openings for alternate delegates, who can fill in for missing delegates during business sessions.

For more details, contact your state party leadership. (For contact information, visit the Libertarian Party website: www.LP.org.)

You do not have to be a delegate to attend the convention, but only credentialed delegates (or alternate delegates) can vote during business sessions, during the presidential nomination process, and during party officer elections.

■ Are Marriott Hotel rooms still available?

At press time (mid-June) at least one night was already sold out. And the deadline has passed to reserve a room at the special Convention discount rate. But you can call the hotel for availability at: (800) 228-9290, although you may have to pay a higher rate. For directions to the hotel, visit: www.marriott.com/LAXAH/.

If the Marriott is completely sold out, call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776 for a list of nearby hotels.

■ Will the convention be covered by C-SPAN?

Yes, C-SPAN has said they will cover the convention. However, C-SPAN reserves the right to decide what events to cover. Convention business, especially Platform debates, the presidential debates, and the presidential nominating process, are most likely to be broadcast.

■ How do I get from the airport to the Convention hotel?

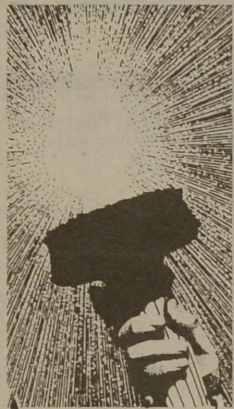
From the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) you can take an airport bus. Cost: Adult \$14.00 one way/\$22.00 round trip. Child \$8.00 one way/\$14.00 round trip. Or, you can take the SuperShuttle: \$13.00 one way/\$26.00 roundtrip. (Reservations required; call 310-417-8988). Or, you can take a cab, which will cost about \$65.00.

From the John Wayne/Orange County Airport, the airport bus costs: Adult \$10.00 one way/\$16.00 round trip. Child \$7.00 one way/\$12.00 round trip. SuperShuttle: \$10.00 one way/\$20.00 roundtrip. (Reservations required; call 714-517-6600). Cab: About \$26.00.

■ Where is the convention being held?

The convention will be held at the Anaheim Marriott Hotel at 700 West Convention Way, Anaheim, California, two blocks south of Disneyland. Information on this hotel can be found at www.marriott.com/LAXAH/.

2000 LIBERTARIAN NATIONAL CONVENTION



**America's
Future**

*Liberty
Responsibility
Community*

**ANAHEIM,
CALIFORNIA
JUNE 29-
JULY 3, 2000**

(Thursday: Opening night
celebration. Friday-
Monday: Convention
business & speakers.)
Anaheim Marriott Hotel

last chance!

There may still may be time for you to register in person at the 2000 Convention, or to purchase single-event tickets. But you'll have to act fast!

Time is running out!

Depending on when you read this, there may still be time to pre-register for the 2000 Libertarian National Convention, register in person at the hotel, or attend some of the individual events.

But you'll have to act fast if you don't want to miss the most historic and influential Libertarian event of the year.

If you attend the Convention, you will play a role in selecting our 2000 presidential candidate, choosing party leadership for the next two years, and shaping the LP Platform. And you'll enjoy the most amazing line-up of speakers in LP history.

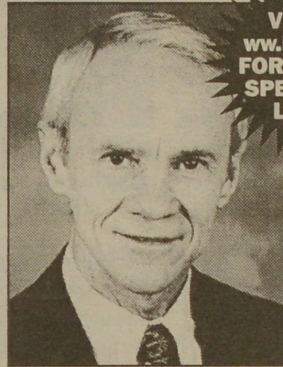
It all happens at the 2000 National Convention in Anaheim, CA, June 29-July 3, 2000.

For reservation information, visit www.LP.org/conv/2000/.

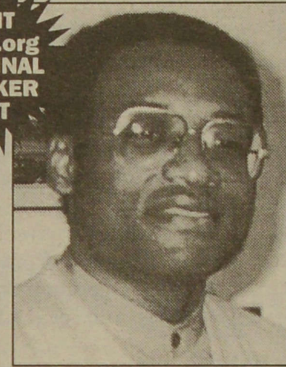
Or call the Balcom Group right now at (800) 272-1776.

Act today, before you miss your "last chance" to be part of political history!

VISIT
www.LP.org
FOR FINAL
SPEAKER
LIST



■ **David Bergland.** He's the outgoing National Chairman of the LP, the party's 1984 candidate for president, and the author of the classic book *Libertarianism In One Lesson*. At the Convention, he will share his "marketing" savvy in an informative and eye-opening workshop entitled: "Using Temperament to Improve Communications."



■ **John Clifton.** This year, he will get a chance to do something that most Libertarians can only dream about: Run for public office against Hillary Clinton. As the LP candidate for U.S. Senate in New York, he will use his background as a drug counselor and Navy veteran to speak against "Hillary's Big Sister and the Republicans' Big Brother" philosophies.



■ **Aaron Russo.** He's got one of the most colorful backgrounds of any LP member: Hollywood producer of such hits as *Trading Places* and *The Rose*, former manager of Bette Midler, and creator of Aaron Russo's *Mad As Hell* TV show. Turning to politics, he ran for governor of Nevada as a Republican in 1998, before joining the LP in 1999.

Hotel Information

The deadline has passed to reserve a Marriott Hotel room at the special discount rate. But you can call the hotel for availability at: (800) 228-9290, although you may have to pay a higher rate. For directions to the hotel, please visit: www.marriott.com/LAXAH/. If the Marriott is completely sold out, call the Balcom Group at (800) 272-1776 for a list of nearby hotels.

LAST CHANCE! Final, at-the-door prices.

Gold!

\$389 - Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, two luncheons with Thibodeau and Branden, Friday night entertainment, all workshops, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Program.

Silver!

\$299 - Includes Gala Banquet, opening night reception, Friday night entertainment with Melanie and Tim Slagle, all workshops and panels, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.

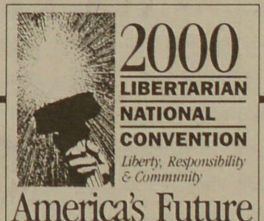
Bronze!

\$179 - Includes opening night reception, Friday night entertainment with Melanie and Tim Slagle, all workshops and panels, Floor Pass for Main Hall speakers, Convention tote bag, & Convention Program.

Need More Information?

The Balcom Group
Registration Management
3600 16th Street, NW
Washington DC 20010
Phone: (202) 234-3880
Fax: (202) 234-3884
E-mail: LPCONV@aol.com

■ **Basic Delegate Package** -
\$79 - Includes Floor Pass for
Main Hall speakers, Convention
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Yes!

Sign me up for:

- ☐ **GOLD PACKAGE** \$389 ☐ **SILVER PACKAGE** \$299
☐ **BRONZE PACKAGE** \$179 ☐ **DELEGATE PACKAGE** \$79

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■ Federal law requires political committees to report the name, mailing address, and occupation and name of employer for each individual whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$200 in a calendar year. Political contributions are not tax deductible.
NOTE: PLEASE COMPLETE A SEPARATE REGISTRATION FORM FOR EACH ATTENDEE.

Payment:

- ☐ Check/money order
Charge ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard

ACCT. # _____
SIGNATURE _____ EXPIRES _____

Make checks payable to: 2000 National Libertarian Party Convention

Special Needs?

Please let us know if you have any special needs or other requirements. We should know about:

- ☐ Visual ☐ Mobility ☐ Hearing
☐ Dietary ☐ Other: _____

To Register:

Mail to: Balcom Group / 2000 National LP Convention
3600 16th Street, NW · Washington, DC 20010
Fax: (202) 234-3884 · **Call toll-free:** (800) 272-1776
Via e-mail: LPCONV@aol.com

Chicago party offers 'controversial' signs

A series of controversial Libertarian posters — some of them too controversial for the Chicago Transit System — are now being offered for sale by the Libertarian Party of Chicago.

"The ads received a tremendous amount of positive response," said Matt Beauchamp, the chairman of the city LP. "Due to the outpouring of requests, we decided to print posters of the ads [and make them] available for purchase."

The posters are based on a series of four advertisements that the Chicago LP ran in the city's transit system in March. Each ad included the city party's website.

The ads — which discussed Social Security, re-legalizing drugs, crime, and wasteful government spending — got 500 placements in the subway system over a six-week period, and increased the number of hits on the Chicago LP's website tenfold, said Beauchamp.

"Not only have we gained over 100 new members on our e-mail news list, attendance doubled at our last LPC meeting," he said. "The ads [have helped] boost membership to the highest

BEAUCHAMP:

"The ads received a tremendous amount of positive response."

it's been since the Chicago LP's beginning in the early 1980s."

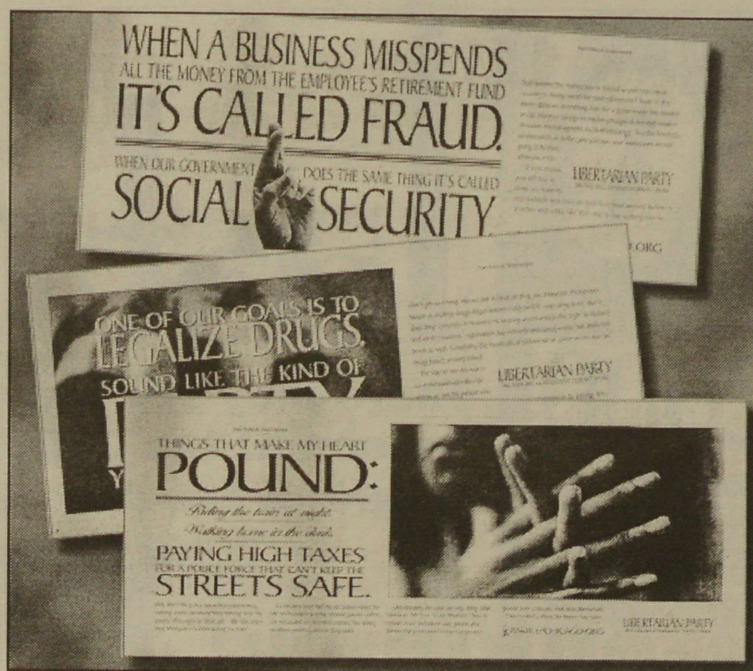
The advertisements were the work of the uncle/niece team of Jim Courtright, a freelance advertising director from New York City, and Stephanie Sailor, an artist/writer and local LP member.

To the customer

"It only makes sense to bring the product" — Libertarianism — "to the customer, and our mass transit system has over 13 million customers per month," said Sailor.

But the ads weren't as popular with the Transit Authority bureaucrats, who originally refused to run several of the ads.

"The Chicago Transit Author-



■ Three of the original four advertisements the Chicago LP displayed in the city's transit system. They are now for sale in a slightly modified poster form.

ity board initially rejected our crime and drug ads," said Beauchamp. "The CTA, funded by taxpayer dollars, didn't like the content of [those] ads. We were told that we'd have to remove those ads altogether."

However, the Libertarians and the CTA reached a compromise, he said, and several lines of text in the ads were modified slightly.

The transit advertising was so successful that the Chicago LP plans to do it again, said

Beauchamp — and is selling the poster versions of the ads to help raise money for the next ad campaign.

"We have decided to print a batch of high-quality poster reproductions of these ads to help defray our costs and build for the next campaign," he said. "These sharp posters belong in any good Libertarian's office or basement."

The posters — 18" x 24" in size, in full color — are available at www.LPChicago.com for \$15 each, or \$10 each for two or more.

Don Gorman versus Texas

Continued from Page 4
razed by BATF agents in April 1993.

"The Libertarian Party will never forget," he said. "I will publicly demand an investigation by the Texas Rangers and sheriffs into violations of state and federal law in their jurisdiction during the Branch Davidian massacre. If I am elected president, never again will American tanks be used to kill innocent women and children."

On a lighter subject, on May 23 Gorman jokingly promised to create a new federal requirement as president: "Economic literacy tests for federal bureaucrats."

Gorman came up with the idea after learning of a special Medicaid program set up to provide assistance to parents who lost cash assistance, he said.

Free money

"It was a \$500 million program, and — wonder of wonders — \$383 million went unspent," said Gorman. "And what does the Health and Human Services spokeswoman say? She said, 'It's free money. We would really like to see states use it.'"

"Well, I have some news for them. There is no such thing as free money. It's the taxpayers' money. And if I'm elected president, I'm going to make sure we don't have any more economic illiterates working on the public payroll, telling the American people that money is free."

Gorman continued his trek to LP conventions across the country in late May and June, speaking to LP state parties in Michigan, Missouri, and Texas, and spending a week visiting local LP groups around the Lone Star State.

In Michigan on May 20, Gorman appeared with state LP leaders and praised the growing party.

"This Michigan group is obviously one of the dynamic leaders of the Libertarian movement in the United States," he said. "Their energy, cooperation, and organization would make a great role model for smaller state party groups."

Gorman faces Harry Browne, Barry Hess, and Dave Hollist for the LP presidential nomination.

The party's presidential ticket will be selected by delegates at the LP National Convention in Anaheim, California, June 29-July 3, 2000.

Beginner's Introduction

"It's the best for new libertarians!"

— KEN SCHOOLAND

Send \$6.95 (includes postage) to:
SIL, Box 10224, Rochester NY 14610

The Power of Just One Signature

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

You can help change that by joining the Libertarian Party! We're the only political party that is fighting — with 100% of our energy — to lower taxes, to reduce the size of government, and to defend the Bill of Rights. With your support — and your proud signature on this membership form — we can work harder than ever to build a powerful political force for freedom.

But we need your help to do it. Join us today!

Libertarian Party Membership!

☐ **YES! Sign me up today as a proud, dues-paying member of the Libertarian Party!**

I'll receive 12 issues of the monthly newspaper, LP News, and a membership card. I'd like to be a Libertarian Party member in the following category:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 | Basic Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | Sustaining Member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$250 | Sponsor |
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Browne scores 1% in new poll

Continued from Page 4

"Harry Browne is the only Libertarian to meet the criteria set forth by the league," said Willis — including raising more than \$150,000 in contributions, generating national media coverage, and campaigning in enough states to win an Electoral College majority.

Those same criteria will also qualify Browne to participate in the online presidency projects of America Online (AOL) and CBS, said Willis, which "means much greater exposure for this campaign and for the Libertarian message."

New book

The campaign also announced that Browne's new book, *The Great Libertarian Offer*, will be available in late June.

The 287-page nonfiction work, published by LiamWorks, is designed to show people "the benefits of a Libertarian America" and "expose the fallacies of big government programs," said

Browne. It will have a list price of \$14.95.

From mid-May to early June, Browne continued campaigning around the country, speaking at Libertarian state conventions in Indiana, Wisconsin, Michigan, Missouri, and West Virginia, and to several hundred people at the International Investors Northeast Mining Conference in New York City on June 1.

During that same time,

PERRY WILLIS:
*The DNet offer
"means much
greater exposure
for the campaign."*

Browne did dozens of media interviews, including appearances on the syndicated "Lionel" radio show on 21 stations, the syndicated Stan Solomon show, the 14-station Wisconsin Public radio, and with Doug Stephan on the Radio America Network. He also did print interviews with the Associated Press and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*, and wrote several essays for WorldNetDaily.com.

Browne will face off against Don Gorman, Barry Hess, and Dave Hollist for the party's presidential nomination at the LP National Convention in Anaheim, California, June 29-July 3, 2000.

Corrections

■ In the "Forum" section of the June 2000 issue, the wrong Greg Holmes was given credit for writing the essay, "The Microsoft antitrust suit: An attack on America's premier software..." The author is actually from Louisville, Kentucky.

■ In the same issue, Jacob Hornberger was described as "a former LP member." Hornberger has since rejoined the Libertarian Party.

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THAT YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS
BEEN KEEPING FROM YOU...

LP qualifies in Oklahoma

Continued from Page 3

tioners with arrest, said Crickenberger.

But "in the end, we made it. With Libertarians from Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Colorado, California, Arkansas, Virginia, and Washington, DC working up to 20 hours a day for the last two weeks, we turned in more signatures than [any other party], and we turned them in first," he said.

With the successful completion of the Oklahoma drive, the LP is now qualified in 34 states for the 2000 election.

The party will now turn its attention to the Illinois drive, said Crickenberger, where 50,000 signatures are required by June 26.

After that, 36,232 signatures must be filed in Pennsylvania by August 1; 16,378 in New Hampshire by August 9; 12,500 in Connecticut by August 11; 2,500 in Iowa by August 17; and 16,667 in Virginia by August 24.

Plus, immediately after the National Convention, the party must immediately collect another 55,875 signatures in eight more states, said Crickenberger.

"We're not home free yet," he said. "Ballot access deadlines continue to come fast and furious."

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Politics 2000

Campaign news, tidbits, & updates

In Oregon, **Don McDaniel** has announced his candidacy for State Representative (1st District). In New York, **Scott Jeffrey** was unanimously endorsed by the LP of Queens County to run for U.S. House (15th District). In West Virginia, **Timothy West** was named as the LP candidate for State House (District 56). In New Jersey, five candidates filed petitions on May 26 to qualify for the ballot: **Emerson Ellett** (U.S. Senate), **Darren Young** (U.S. House, 7th District), **Worth Winslow** (12th District), **Len Flynn** (Freeholder, Monmouth County), and **Tom Abrams** (Princeton Twp. Committee). And in Virginia, **Randy Agüero** will run for U.S. House (7th District).

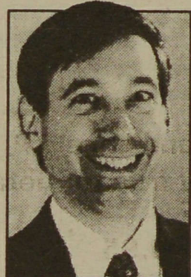
■ The LP of Michigan nominated a whopping 107 candidates at its annual convention on May 22. At the top of the ticket: **Michael Corliss** for U. S. Senate, and **Jon Coon** and **Diane Barnes**, both running for the State Board of Education. Also nominated: Candidates for all 16 Congressional races. In Indiana, at its annual convention, May 12-14, the state LP nominated nearly 50 state, state legislative, and judicial candidates. Top of the ticket: **Andrew Horning** for Governor, **Mark Schreiber** for Lt. Governor, **N. Sean Harshey** for Attorney General, and **Sam Goldstein** for Superintendent of Education. Nominated for U.S. Senate: **Paul Hager**. And for U.S. House: **Chris Nelson** (1st District), **Scott Benson** (5th), **Joe Hauptmann** (6th), **Bob Thayer** (7th), **Sara Cotham** (9th), and **Na'llah Ali** (10th).

■ An, ahem, *unorthodox* Libertarian campaign fundraising technique, reported by Iowa LP Vice Chair **Roger Fritz**: State House candidate **Hugh Tweedy** "lives on a farm. In a pasture, he drove a big post in the ground, hooked a chain to it, hooked it to a car, started the car and put a brick on the accelerator — so now the car is driving around in circles," reported Fritz. "Then he got his guests about 100 yards away, and let them blast away at the car with their guns. Apparently after three revolutions someone hit the gas tank and started the car on fire, and it made a few more revolutions before stopping." Sure, flaming cars and gunfire are fun, but do they generate campaign contributions? "He's raising money to beat the band," said Fritz — while admitting that "this guy is not what I would consider the traditional Libertarian." (Kids, don't try this at home.)

■ **Harry Browne** — one of four active contenders for the LP's presidential nomination — has a 34% name recognition factor among voters, according to a June 9 Gallup poll. Of that number, 5% say they have a favorable impression of him, while 14% view him unfavorably. Another 15% had no opinion. "The unfavorable rating doesn't bother me," said Browne. "As we do more advertising, more people will begin to understand what we're offering." In Ohio, Congressional candidate **Scott Smith** has signed the "e-Freedom Declaration," which supports a permanent ban on Internet taxes. And in Massachusetts, U.S. Senate candidate **Carla Howell** spoke out against the Million Mom March's "sensible" gun control laws. "Gun registration, gun restriction, gun prohibition is senseless and insensitive," she said. "It disarms the powerless, the honest, and the law-abiding."

■ More convention news: On May 20, the LP of Utah nominated 38 candidates for federal, state, and local offices — more than the party has ever run since it first qualified for ballot access in 1972. Leading the list: **Douglas Wade** for Governor and **Barry W. Briggs** for Lt. Governor. The candidates all signed a "Contract with Utah," vowing to work for less government, lower taxes, and more freedom. In Nevada, Libertarians nominated **J.J. Johnson** to run for U.S. Senate, **Charles Schneider** for U.S. House (1st District), and **Terry Savage** for U.S. House (2nd District).

■ In Massachusetts, five candidates filed their nomination papers with the Secretary of the Commonwealth on May 26: **Ronald Bargoot** (State House, 30th Middlesex District), **Dean Cook** (State House, 6th Essex), **Carlton Garfield** (State House, 7th Middlesex), **Peter Schoaff** (State House, 1st Middlesex), and **Richard Yampell** (State House, 6th Norfolk). In North Carolina, **Steven LeBoeuf** has launched his campaign for U.S. House (5th District). In Michigan, **Clint Foster** has announced a second bid for U.S. House (5th District). And in Maine, **Fred Staples** has begun his campaign for U.S. House (1st District).



■ **Scott Smith:** "e-Freedom."

CAMPAIGN 2000 REPORT

Kathy Moss for Co. Commissioner: The proper ingredients for a win?

Add together a candidate who is a former high school class salutatorian and star athlete, voters who are "ready to see a change," a disliked Republican incumbent, and a well-known family name — and you have the recipe for a possible Libertarian victory this November.

At least, that's what Kathy Moss is hoping will be the outcome of her campaign for Stevens County Commissioner in Washington state.

"The goal is to win," said Moss. "The county is ready to see a change [and] is filled with independent people who would like to see less government involvement in their lives. This gives the LP the perfect opportunity to get their message out and a candidate into office."

Mark A. Taff, who serves as Moss's campaign manager in addition to his duties as vice chair of the Washington state Libertarian Party and chairman of the LP of Northeast Washington, is also confident.

"This will be an exciting race," he said.



■ **Kathy Moss:** "The county is ready to see a change. This [race] gives the LP the perfect opportunity."

In the race, Moss will face a Republican incumbent and a likely Democratic challenger — and will probably require 9,000 votes to win, estimated Taff.

"Democrats are consistent losers in this area, so I intend to turn the tables and tell the Democrats they are wasting their votes by voting Democrat," he said.

"Only a Libertarian can beat Republicans in Stevens County."

To try to beat the Republican, Moss will have the advantage of a long history in the community, extensive volunteer work, and a well-known family name, she said.

Athletic achievements

"During high school, I was president of every club I joined, class salutatorian, and [was] highlighted in our local newspapers for my athletic achievements," she said. "I have worked and coached for two public schools here, I am a volunteer EMT for the Spokane Tribe, and was a Sunday school teacher for my church" — and her husband is a BIA Police Officer at the Spokane [Indian] Reservation.

In addition, "my family has been well known in Stevens County for six generations," she said, with various family members involved in politics, a local food bank, and the school board.

However, it will take more than family ties for Moss to get

See **KATHY MOSS** Page 21

John Clifton starts New York Senate bid

Continued from Page 1

LPNY a factor for future elections. [Also], I personally would like to set a record for votes garnered by a statewide Libertarian candidate in New York."

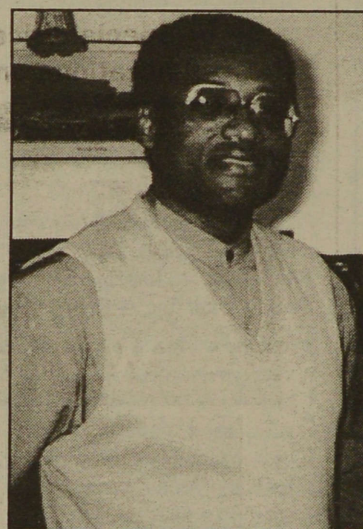
To muscle his way into the white-hot media glare that permeates the New York Senate race, Clifton said he will highlight his unique background — and offer Libertarian solutions to the Empire State's problems.

"I am running against the nanny state and the police state; Hillary's Big Sister and the Republicans' Big Brother philosophy and policies," he said. "My campaign centers on five freedoms: Tax freedom, gun freedom, drug freedom, personal freedom, peace and freedom."

Crime and despair

Even though he is a drug counselor, Clifton said he will vocally oppose the drug laws that drive many of his patients to a life of crime and despair.

"I've worked on the front lines of the social problems my opponents give speeches about," he said. "I think that as with alcohol, the health and behavioral problems associated with substance abuse are separate from



■ **John Clifton:** "I am running against the nanny state and the police state."

the crime issues."

And even though he is a Navy veteran, he will oppose American "military adventurism" in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Iraq, he said, and vote to slash defense spending.

"[In the Navy], I pledged to defend my country's interests in war, not NATO's," he said. "The job of the military is to defend our borders, not to initiate force abroad."

Finally, even though he was

raised on welfare, Clifton said he will call for an end to such government programs.

"Every American is either a past or present welfare recipient, considering the vast array of direct and indirect subsidy programs out there," he said. "[But] the culture of dependency is not consistent with a culture of liberty."

Such traditional Libertarian positions — coming from a candidate with such an untraditional background — are already attracting media attention to Clifton's campaign.

Every hour

"The week I was nominated, I received a 14-inch profile story in the *New York Times*, was covered by the Associated Press, and mentioned every hour on the news radio stations," he said.

However, Clifton acknowledged, "the free ride doesn't last."

"I'm not basing the race on being dependent on free media," he said. "Our plan is to raise funds nationally from Libertarians, to support a TV and radio [ad] campaign in the fall."

In addition to advertising, Clifton said he will run a strong

See **JOHN CLIFTON** Page 21

Moss: The 'goal is to win'

Continued from Page 20

elected as a Stevens County Commissioner, acknowledged Taff — which is why he has put together a comprehensive campaign plan that involves old-fashioned campaigning and a sizable budget.

"The cornerstone of the campaign will be two rounds of highly individualized doorbelling," he said. "This will be supplemented with targeted direct mail, signs, outreach booths, speeches, and radio and print advertising."

"Our strategy involves targeting Libertarians, non-voters, Native Americans, and disillusioned Democrats and Republicans. Further, it appears likely that we will get the [Spokane Indian] Tribe's support. The Tribe is a major political powerhouse when properly motivated."

To fund all this activity, Taff estimated the campaign would raise \$10,000 — "three times what the winners spent in the last two elections."

Currently, said Moss, Stevens County is a "predominately Republican county, but the voters have become disillusioned with their party because they have not had their views represented."

So, said Taff, the right candidate with the right message and the right campaign strategy stands a good chance of victory.

"Yes," said Moss. "This race is winnable."

■ For more information about the Moss for County Commissioner campaign, contact Mark Taff at (509) 684-6240. Or e-mail him at: liberty@marktaff.com.

John Clifton: U.S. Senate

Continued from Page 20

grassroots campaign. Since his nomination, he has spoken to the Manhattan Million Marijuana March and to crowds in Astoria and Long Island.

"I have gotten a positive response from far-left to far-right audiences," he said.

And whatever Clifton's eventual vote total in November, "I feel I'll make a difference in this election," he said.

Clifton is a resident of Ja-

maica, Queens. He co-founded the Queens County LP in 1994, and chaired that affiliate for three years. In 1999, he ran for New York City school board.

For information on Clifton's campaign, or to contribute, visit www.ny.lp.org/campaign/clifton-for-us-senate2000.htm.

Or write Elect Clifton, Inc., 164-01B 89th Avenue #110, Jamaica, NY 11432.

Telephone: (877) 407-5493. E-mail: Clifton2000@ureach.com.

Hess campaigns in 6 more states

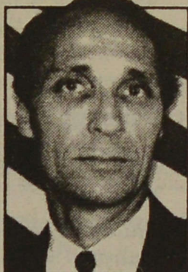
Libertarian presidential hopeful Barry Hess wrapped up his national campaign tour with six final stops before heading out to California for the LP National Convention.

"It's time a common man took control of the White House," Hess told supporters in his home state of Arizona on May 16. "If we keep electing professional politicians, we will keep getting the kind of sleazy politics that have come to characterize our national scene."

At that meeting of Libertarian activists, Hess, an Arizona businessman, said that "only a new party" in the White House can bring real change.

"Now more than ever we need a president who is free from party bias."

As a Libertarian, Hess would be free "to work openly with both sides of the aisle" in Washington, DC, he said.



■ **Barry Hess:** Common man.

"I would be able to pick and choose the best ideas without the usual party delineation," said Hess. "A Libertarian president would have the ability to accomplish the great things yet to be realized in America's destiny."

In late May and June, Hess spoke at LP state conventions in Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, and Texas, and returned to Michigan on June 11 for a Michigan LP fundraising event.

Hess faces Harry Browne, Don Gorman, and Dave Hollist for the LP nomination. The party's presidential candidate will be selected by delegates at the LP National Convention in Anaheim, California, June 29-July 3, 2000.



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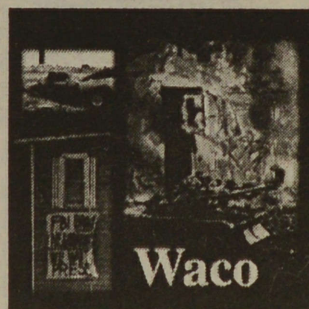
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■ **Don't Blame Me, I Voted Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-682-1776

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■ **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

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Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian TV Ads:** A videotape of TV ads by LP candidates — from State Representative to president. (For informational use only; 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

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

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By the time you read this — or very shortly afterward — delegates at the Libertarian National Convention will have selected a presidential candidate. This means we've begun a four-month sprint to the November 7th finish line, and we have a once-every-four-years opportunity to capture the attention of the American public. Will you do your part to let your friends and neighbors learn about the Libertarian option this year? A bumpersticker, yard sign, or book will do so much to help increase LP vote totals for our 2,000 candidates. Yes, the 2000 presidential campaign starts *right now*. Your public support for the Libertarian Party and our presidential ticket should start today, too!

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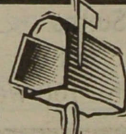
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_____ Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
_____ Brochure: "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
_____ Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
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_____ *America's Libertarian Heritage* booklet
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_____ I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
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Working for freedom in Grand Isle

When the Selectboard of the small town of Grand Isle, Vermont, tried to buy "30 acres and a run-down building" against the wishes of the taxpayers, a lone Libertarian Selectman stood in the way — and stopped them.

Last fall, Hardy Macia, 30, blocked Grand Isle's purchase of Poquette House — a dilapidated old home in need of repair — which would have cost the town hundreds of thousands of dollars in upkeep.

"I didn't think we needed to spend \$250,000 [to buy the house], and then a year down the road spend another \$250,000 to fix it up," he said. "I was the only one of five selectmen opposed to it, and I made my opposition known."

The battle over the Poquette House, in a small way, demonstrates the importance of having even one Libertarian in office, said LP Political Director Ron Crickenberger.

"This was a textbook example of what one Libertarian can accomplish in office," he said. "One Selectman in one small town was able to save taxpayers a bundle."

Six-vote margin

Macia, who won his seat by a scant six-vote margin in the March 1999 election, did have one ally in his corner: The town's voters. The Selectboard had tried twice before to buy the Poquette House and restore it with government funds. Both times, voters rejected the scheme at town meeting votes.

Knowing he couldn't convince his fellow Selectmen to reverse their decision, Macia took his message directly to the 1,900 people of the Lake Champlain town, nestled in the center of an island just a stone's throw from Canada.

At a town meeting last September 20, Macia delivered a lengthy speech urging residents to vote down the deal at a referendum the next day.

"There were a lot of feelings in town that the Poquette House purchase was a bad deal," he said. "I just told them that the purchase would have cost residents \$180 each year on every \$100,000 of their home's value."

"Some residents are already struggling just to buy food for dinner. I asked the town to vote no, because I didn't want to take what might be their money for their next meal."

60%-40% margin

The voters listened. At the polls on September 21, citizens killed the purchase plan by a 60-40% margin.

Macia's willingness to stand up for his principles — and the obvious support he had from voters — appeared to impress the other Selectboard members: They elected him Chair on March 13.

Libertarian IN OFFICE

His new role, and his come-from-behind Poquette House victory, has given Macia a new zeal for the Selectman's job, he said. He's now using his computer background to bring a more open government to the small town.

"I've set up an e-mail list for

town business," he said — and a full 5% of the town's registered voters are now regularly conversing about municipal affairs online.

Macia, a computer programmer who owns Catamount Software in Grand Isle, plans to serve on Selectboard through next year, he said. He also holds the ceremonial office of "Weigher of Coal," and ran for State Senate in 1998.

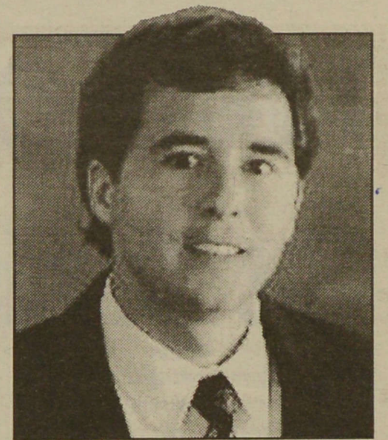
In addition to his two public offices, he serves as secretary of

the Vermont LP and chairs the LP in Grand Isle. Plus, he heads up Libertarians for Privacy, a group he founded to draw attention to the dangers of the government's anti-encryption laws.

Principal goal

However, his principal goal for the time being is to keep moving Grand Isle in a more Libertarian direction, he said.

"I'm the only one voting no on a lot of motions," he said. "Often it's not because I disagree with the idea, but the means [to accomplish it]. As a Libertarian, I stand firm on my principles."



■ Grand Isle (VT) Selectboard member Hardy Macia fought a plan to buy a rundown house.

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The Forum

The 'Gradual versus Complete' debate

Are you a semi-Libertarian? Quasi-Libertarian? Half-Libertarian?

Of course, I'm making these labels up. No one can really be a *semi-Libertarian*. Or can they?

It all depends on your perspective. What I'm referring to is an age-old debate within Libertarian circles that continues to this day, especially in light of rapid changes in public policy and voter attitudes.

That debate is known as the "Gradual vs. Complete" debate: Should Libertarians support laws and policies that, although not ideal, may bring us one step closer to a truly free society? Or should Libertarians reject those laws on principle — if it doesn't match our platform, it shouldn't become law?

Any step

"Gradualists" believe that any step towards a free society is a good one — even the steps that may contain non-Libertarian elements. Gradualists view those steps as chipping away at the wall separating us from true liberty, and as long as we keep chipping away eventually the wall will come down. Gradualists believe government can be eroded.

"Compleatists" reject the chipping away notion. They will not support a gradualist approach. Compleatists view gradualist approaches as a form of compromise with the enemy and a violation of

Libertarian principles. A compleatist does not believe government can be eroded.

Compleatists will not support any law unless that law repeals, eliminates, or abolishes government in one form or another. If a law contains a non-Libertarian provision, that law should be opposed, even if the overall effect of the law might be positive.

Are you a gradualist or a compleatist?

The reason this debate has raged so long is because the debate cannot really be won by either side. Let's take a few examples.

(1) Taxes. Libertarians would like to abolish taxes completely and develop some alternate source of government funding, presumably for a much smaller government.

Immoral

Libertarians oppose taxes for many reasons, but the philosophical underpinning is that "taxation is theft": Namely, taxes are coerced from us against our will using the force of government and therefore are considered immoral.



By Juan Ros

The entire institution of taxation has led to numerous practical problems, the largest of which is arguably the Internal Revenue Service. The IRS has begotten audits, which beget the freezing of bank accounts, which begets the confiscation of personal property, and so on.

Should Libertarians therefore embrace an alternative plan that would eliminate the IRS? One example is the national sales tax, which would be collected at point of purchase and does away with "April 15" and all that date stands for.

A national sales tax won't get rid of taxes, but it would get rid of some of the problems with our current taxation system. Perhaps adoption of a national sales tax, or a flat tax, or some alternate system would prove to the public that we don't need the IRS, thus pushing public perception in a Libertarian direction.

(2) Education. Libertarians agree that government-run schools should be done away with, replaced by a free-market education system of private schools and homeschooling.

What about charter schools? They are kind of like government

schools, in that they accept state tax money, but they're also like private schools, in that they are self-managed outside the government school bureaucracy and have a fair amount of autonomy.

Should Libertarians support charter schools, which have shown to be more effective at teaching children than "regular" public schools? Or should Libertarians oppose charter schools on the grounds that they accept tax money, and taxation is theft?

The same with vouchers. Should government school students be given money to attend private schools in order to inject competition into the government education system? Or should Libertarians oppose vouchers as well because vouchers constitute a re-

distribution of wealth?

(3) Drugs. Libertarians oppose the War on Drugs and would like to decriminalize all drugs, leaving the decision of whether or not to ingest drugs up to the individual.

But if the Drug War were to end tomorrow only on the condition that drugs would be regulated by the state, or taxed by the state, or both, would Libertarians

support such a move as a breakthrough in public policy? Or would Libertarians oppose an end to the Drug War if it meant continued government regulation of drugs, which we oppose?

The point is, individual Libertarians should make their own minds up about these issues. Our party is open to all ways of thinking: Gradualist, compleatist, and everything in between.

Libertarians should not judge new party members simply because they only agree with 60% or 70% or 80% of our platform. As long as Libertarians believe in individual liberty, personal responsibility, and limited government, those Libertarians have a place in our party.

99% of Platform

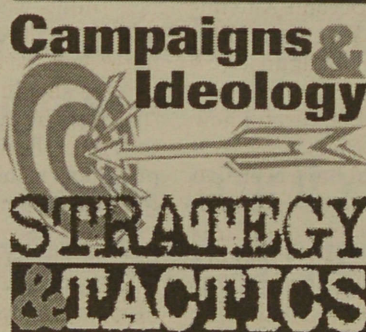
I have a confession to make: I am a gradualist, personally. In fact, when I first joined the party, I had a problem with the gun issue. I wasn't comfortable with the party's position, but I agreed with the other 99% of the platform.

Thanks to my involvement in the party and my exposure to different viewpoints, I have fully accepted and embraced the Libertarian position on the Second Amendment.

After all, that's what Libertarianism is all about: Freedom of choice, including freedom to accept or reject particular aspects of our platform for one reason or another. The gradualist semi-Libertarians should be welcomed just as much as any other Libertarian.

Through education, Libertarians can learn more about Libertarianism and therefore educate their friends about what I predict will become the dominant political philosophy of the 21st century.

■ **About the author:** Juan C. Ros is the Executive Director of the Libertarian Party of California.



The secret for LP success: Attracting more non-voters?

The Rs and Ds have a lock on registered voters. So we need to emulate Perot and Ventura...

In discussions about campaign strategy, I'm always presented with the question of how to get the people who vote to vote for Libertarians. But, I believe that we are wasting our efforts to get active voters to vote for us. And, so long as we continue to try, we will continue to lose elections.

Twenty percent of those who vote will always vote Republican; 20% will always vote Democrat. Of the remaining 60% "swing" vote, 80% will always vote for either a Republican or a Democrat.

That means 88% of those who vote will vote R or D, but not L. Only 12% will even consider us. And, even if we can draw the entire 12%, we won't win. Twelve percent doesn't win, unless it's a plurality vote with 15 candidates and five positions.

About half the people who are

eligible to vote take the time to register. (With Motor-Voter, that might be a little higher now.) But, only about half of those who register actually vote. (And, with Motor-Voter, that might be a little lower now.)

The result is that when votes are cast, only about 25% of the eligible voters go out and vote.

Good news

And that's the good news. Perot polled 19% in 1992. But, as we are pointing out in our open debate campaign, he motivated an additional 12 million new voters to come out. That's where his 19% came from. Not by drawing votes from the Republicans or the Democrats.

By Robert Restivo

Study the Jesse Ventura campaign. Ventura didn't win by drawing R and D votes; he motivated non-voters to get out. Of course, he turned out to be no different than the Rs and the Ds. But, don't lose the point: His success was in drawing new voters, just like Perot.

And, that's the key for Libertarian success.

The Republicans talk about gun rights, and then introduce and push the biggest anti-gun legislation since 1968.

Tom Daschle, on the floor of the Senate, says that there is really no difference between the Republicans and the Democrats.

Bob Dole, in his retirement speech, says his biggest accomplishment was the Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

I don't wonder why people don't vote. It's clear. At a recent candidates forum in which I participated, one member of the au-

dience told me that, for the most part, he couldn't tell what party each candidate was running with, because they all sounded the same. Except for my call to end property tax and land use planning (which are both inconsistent with private property rights), nothing stood out as different from the other candidates.

And, that's what most voters (75%) hear, too. They listened for a while, and found that the choice was a Republican who wanted to expand government and raise taxes, or a Democrat who wanted to expand government and raise taxes.

That's our challenge. Libertarians have got to get across to non-voters. Without the added participation, we're doomed. We have got to learn the lesson of Perot and Ventura. The key to success is a message that rises above the noise of traditional politics, and sets us apart.

That's the advantage of advo-

cating an end to the War on Drugs, Social Security, public education, and the income tax.

It won't hit home with the 22% who won't consider us anyway. But, it will strike a chord with the remainder. And, ultimately, that's our success.

■ **About the author:** Robert Restivo is Communications Director for the Libertarian Party of Tom Green County, Texas. He serves on the State Executive Committee, and is currently a candidate for county office. Contact him via e-mail at: rri@netzero.net.

Any libertarian stuff on TV this week?

www.missliberty.com

To get votes, don't scare people with radical ideas

The key to being taken seriously is to stress those issues that can rally people to our cause

While I agree that our Libertarian presidential candidate needs to stand up for what we believe in and communicate our ideas, I also believe that he must communicate these ideas in such a way that people will accept the message. I also believe that we don't need to cram every idea down people's throats.

This is the key to being taken seriously. Otherwise, no local or national Libertarian has any chance whatsoever of being elected. The national leader speaks for the whole party and that person can't be so irresponsible as to spend valuable time and resources standing on a soap box while forgetting what we're trying to accomplish.

Most controversial

If we want people to take us seriously, why do we feel the need to speak so much about the most controversial aspects of our beliefs? What good does this do, other than to keep closet Libertarians in the closet?

I know of countless people who would love to vote Libertarian, but don't. Here's why (candidates, listen up).

1. They are afraid of our ideas.

2. They think some of our ideas indicate we are from outer space.

3. They don't think we can win.

It's easy to see why.

When we say we want to free all the people who have been imprisoned unfairly, they hear: "We plan on releasing a mass amount of criminals back into the streets." When we say we're going to fight against the War on Drugs, they hear: "We want kids to have easier access to drugs." When we say we will protect the Second Amendment, they hear: "We support killing children with handguns."

The point is, our ideas are good, but we must be careful how we communicate them.

In past years, I have been disappointed to hear candidates talk about issues that no one cares about (except us), issues that are far too controversial for the majority, and issues that don't advance the cause of our party. The idea is to get elected, not to be cast aside as political kooks!

Our presidential candidate

By A.J. Diliberto

needs to speak of the beliefs that can rally people to our cause. There is such a thing as picking and choosing what to say and promote. That's politics.

People (the masses) have proven time and time again that they can't handle the truth, and in this day of soundbites, the things we say all too often get misreported and misinterpreted. So let's be careful what we say.

People don't mind

For instance, people in general don't mind paying some level of taxes. By saying we would like to reduce taxes to zero simply makes people think we don't comprehend reality. They are also afraid of that concept.

We could, however, talk about specific ways to reduce taxes and how things would be better without them, but the word "eliminate" says we are out of touch.

We should also forget all the "freeing the harmless prisoner" talk too. Of course, if elected, the president would have the ability to pardon people, but why shove it in the face of the American people? They are afraid of this and it will cause them to not vote for us. Believe me. I've been talking Libertarianism for 10 years and I understand that this is exactly what most people think.

Besides, this is not an issue

for local Libertarians. And the reality is, our national candidate probably won't get elected this election, so this issue has zero merit. Zero. It only takes away from the credibility of local Libertarians who are left to defend issues that don't matter.

Consider this thought every time we want to say something radical. Is it really something that we need to promote? If it doesn't help the cause, we should not talk about it. Period.

We can, however, talk of things such as the compassionate use of medical marijuana. If we stick to talking about people who are dying and suffering and in pain, we can gather support. People are compassionate. It's a different idea, it sets us apart, but it's not so radical that we lose our credibility.

Waco: Nobody cares about that stuff. Sorry, but the whole Waco thing is over and only a very, very, very small minority even remember it, much less are still mad about it. In fact, most people weren't mad about it to begin with. They just didn't care. So let's not waste time on such things. Let's discuss recent things that the majority of people care about.

Great example of what we should talk about:

One of the candidates for president (Barry Hess) talks

about how the income tax has been the single most devastating thing to ever happen to our society because it has forced Moms to work. *Yes!* This is what people care about! Moms and Dads care about taking care of their kids. *Yes!* People care about having safer communities and more involvement in the community. *Yes!*

Remember, even though what we say makes sense to us, perception is reality. If people perceive that our way will cause more harm than good — it will. If people perceive that we don't understand the world we live in — we don't.

Help others

I'd like to see a candidate step up and sound like someone who can be elected and can help others to get elected.

Final point: On a local level, which is where we really need to start making some headway, a lot of the national type issues are not relevant. The presidential candidate should be talking about things that matter to average folks so that average folks are persuaded to vote for the local Libertarian with hopes that their life will be improved.

■ **About the author:** A.J. Diliberto is a member of the Libertarian Party of New Jersey.

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FROM The Editor

Making sense of the Million Mom March

Last month, I saw the face of evil. Or rather, the 125,000 faces of evil. Or 500,000. Or 750,000, depending on how many people actually attended the Million Mom March in Washington, DC on May 14.

It was a nice sunny day, so I decided to walk over to the grassy Mall in front of the Capitol Building and check out these Moms who so fervently believed that one of their "inalienable" rights should be taken away from them.

Sometimes, you see, we Libertarians make the mistake of thinking that our only opponents are politicians. In fact, it's frequently our fellow Americans who clamor for the anti-free-dom laws which politicians obligingly pass.

I wondered: Who were these Second Amendment-hating "Million Moms"? When I looked into their faces, I would see — *what?*

A word before I continue: I am not what is sometimes uncharitably referred to as a "gun nut." I don't own a firearm. I am no more passionate about the Second Amendment than I am about the First, or Fifth, or Tenth amendments — but no less, either.

I simply wanted to look into the faces of the people who think they have too much freedom. It is a peculiar irony that in America, we have the freedom to demand less freedom.

It was a warm, sunny day. The Mall was thronged with an overwhelmingly female crowd. They appeared to be mostly white suburbanites, many with children, but with a scattering of black women, too.

The mood was festive. Vendors hawked "Million Mom March" tee-shirts. There were refreshment stands giving away free bottles of water. Huge TV screens and amplifiers were set up so the distant crowd could see the speakers on stage.

Small children — mobile human propaganda billboards for their parents — carried signs that said: "Keep Me Safe."

Adults carried signs that said: "What part of 'a well-regulated militia' don't you understand?" And "Safer Guns = Safer People." And "14 Children Die from Gun Violence Every Day."

The crowd applauded and cheered whenever a speaker opined that guns were evil. Or that tragic, accidental deaths were, well, *tragic*. Or that the NRA was the right hand of the Devil.

One speaker ranted, "We will win because we love our children more than the NRA loves their guns." Cheers. Applause.

The partner of singer Melissa Etheridge asserted that her children were safer than most because there were no guns in their home — and because her kids had "two Moms." (Nice PC touch.) Cheers. Applause.

Courtney Love, the widow of the late Nirvana singer/songwriter Kurt Cobain, blamed her husband's death on . . . yes, guns. Her clinically depressed husband — abused as a child, tormented by fame, a longtime heroin addict — would not have committed suicide if he hadn't been able to get a shotgun to blow his head off, she sobbed. Cheers. Applause.

The most popular word among the speakers was "sensible." They didn't want any *unreasonable* new gun laws. Oh, no. Just "sensible" laws, they assured us — like mandatory trigger locks, gun licensing, limits on gun and ammunition purchases, an end to TV programs that "glamorize" guns, more regulation of gun shows, and much more. Cheers. Applause.

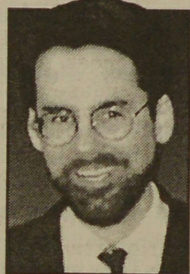
Needless to say, I wasn't applauding. There really is something repugnant — and scary — about Americans who demand that their own liberties be taken away. (And mine, too, while they're at it. And yours.)

I looked into the faces of these women. Smiling faces. Young faces, old faces. Pleasant faces. White faces, black faces.

They looked like anyone's mother, or daughter, or neighbor, or girlfriend, or coworker, or grandmother, or aunt.

Evil can fool you. Sometimes the face of evil is ordinary, and bland, and cheerful. Sometimes the face of evil can be seen on a sunny day on the Mall.

Sometimes the face of evil looks exactly like the women at the Million Mom March, cheerfully demanding that the Second Amendment be repealed, one new "sensible" law at a time.



By Bill Winter, Editor

Campaign finance: Is it a crisis, and is the solution more laws?

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 Peter Orvetti

LP NEWS ASSOCIATE EDITOR

It's enough to buy 312 tons of pure gold. Or 85,700 brand new Mercedes Benz sedans. Or 131 Harrier jets. Or 750 million McDonald's Value Meals. It's the cost of one American election cycle: Three billion dollars.

That's the record-shattering amount that will be spent on campaigns this year. No wonder the spiraling campaign price-tag has become a hot issue, according to political pundits.

But strangely, polls show that real voters don't care. Americans know that campaigns are expensive, and have learned to "tune out" the blaring self-promotion and negative campaign ads. And voters know that an advertisement can't force you to vote for a candidate any more than an advertisement can force you to buy a particular brand of detergent.

Still, campaign finance is a mess. Candidates spend more time raising money for each election, creating a "constant campaign" where the political pan-handling never stops.

But the real solution is not more campaign finance "reform" — but *less*.

In fact, Capital University Law School professor Bradley A. Smith, who just won a seat on the Federal Election Commission, argued in a 1997 essay that contribution limits passed in 1974 after Watergate are actually the reason for today's dirty and expensive elections.

No limits

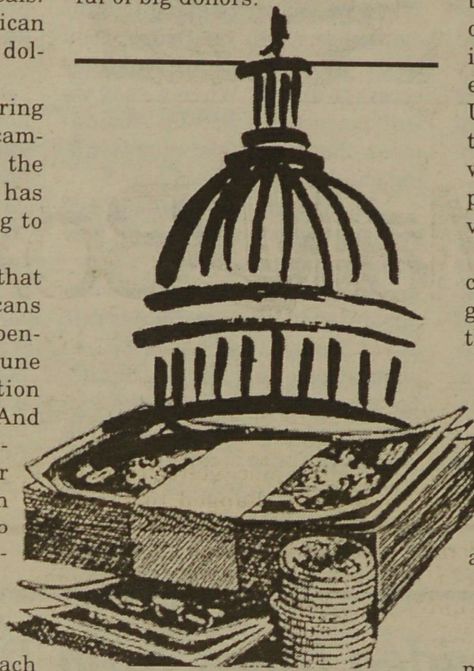
"Prior to 1974, there were effectively no limits at all on who could give what to political campaigns," Smith wrote. "Large gifts were the rule, not the exception. Have our politics improved since 1974?"

Quite the contrary, Smith argued. Instead, "our 20-year effort to limit contributions has decreased the influence of regular people and increased the importance of the media, lawyers, consultants, and professional fundraisers. Contribution limits have forced our representatives to spend an inordinate amount of time raising cash and made them more dependent on special interests who can provide them with cash."

It's a simple equation. Less

Libertarian Solutions

money per donor means more donors are needed. More donors means more time fundraising and ignoring the issues that the non-donating public cares about. Before 1974, candidates could fill their coffers quickly from a handful of big donors.



QUESTION:

How do we end the "corruption" of big-money politics?

But doesn't such an unregulated structure let fatcats buy elections?

In truth, money doesn't "buy" elections because Americans aren't stupid: We choose whom to vote for based on the candidate, not their account balance. Just ask Ross Perot and Steve Forbes.

Neither man was elected president, even though they were able to effortlessly outspend their opponents.

But what happens after the election? Donors may want something from officeholders after giving them the financial support needed to get elected. For an officeholder, is a campaign donation the same thing as a bribe?

The short answer: No. A study by the Yale University School of Law and the University of Texas found that campaign contributions have almost no effect on how politicians vote. Using an innovative approach, the study examined the voting records of U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives who had announced they would retire — and then compared them to the politicians' previous voting habits.

Liberated from the need to collect campaign contributions to get re-elected, politicians changed their votes on less than 1% of the issues. "The voting data indicate that politicians are voting according to their beliefs" and not according to campaign contributions, the study reported.

So why do some politicians want campaign contribution and spending limits?

Protects incumbents

Because limits on how much money can be spent in an election reduces a challenger's chances and protects incumbents, Smith argued.

"Limits on campaign spending would hurt challengers more than incumbents," he wrote. "Efforts to limit spending . . . should not be viewed as benign. Incumbent lawmakers will always have an incentive to draw campaign regulations to their advantage."

That's why Libertarians have always argued that most campaign finance reform proposals are actually "Incumbency Protection Acts" — and that less regulation, not more, is the solution to the mess.

To open up the electoral process, here are three steps that Libertarians can support right now, as we work toward complete electoral freedom:

■ **End public financing of campaigns.** It's immoral to force taxpayers to contribute to candidates they do not support.

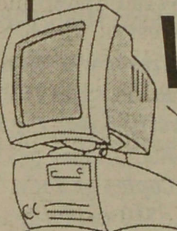
Thomas Jefferson knew this; in 1777, he argued "to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves, is sinful and tyrannical."

Public funding is also expensive. For example, Smith estimates full public financing of House campaigns "would cost more than \$260 million per con-

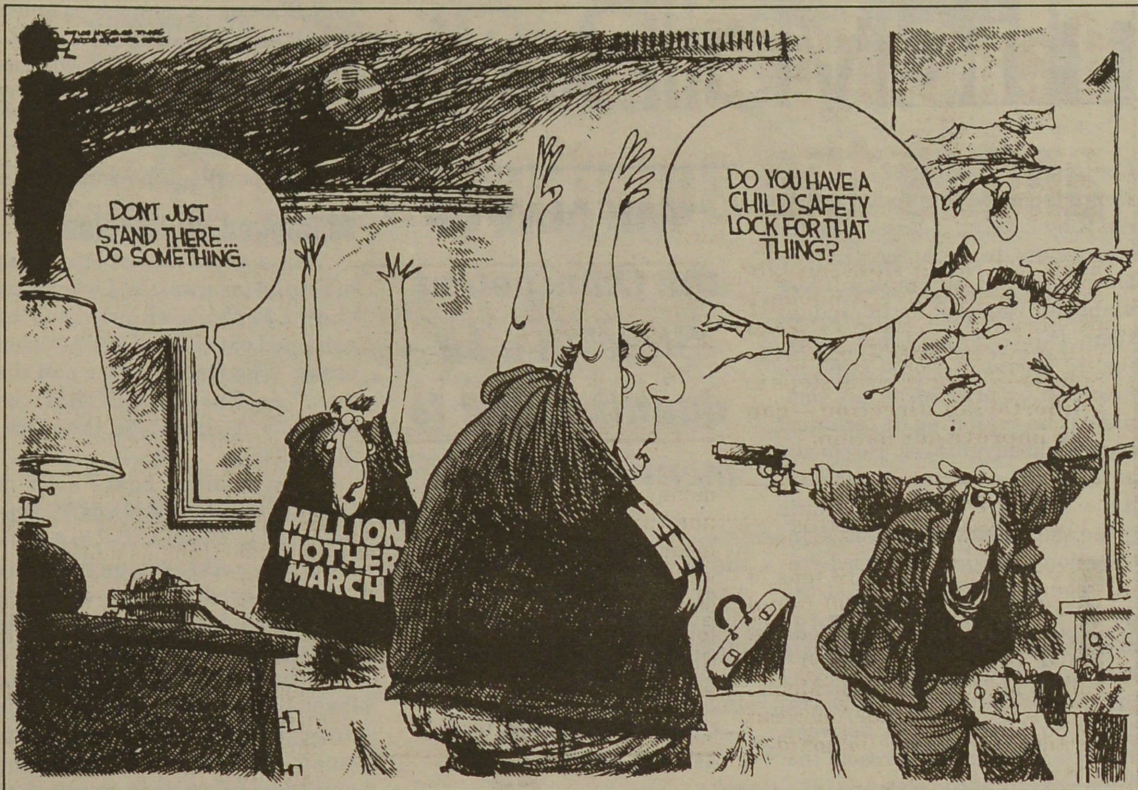
See **CAMPAIGN** Page 30

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ThePulse

Doctrinaire, and we like it

Too doctrinaire? Not the Libertarian Party — and not that there's anything wrong with that. That was the most popular response to this month's unscientific Pulse question, which asked: Is the LP too doctrinaire?

A full 70.8% of respondents said the LP does not adhere too rigidly to its philosophy in a "doctrinaire" way. In fact, many said, it is the party's firm and consistent principles that attracted them in the first place.

Some respondents did concede that the LP has trouble reaching "non-ideological voters." But the solution, they said, is for the party to adopt a "softer touch" by presenting LP views in a non-threatening way, and by pointing out the practical advantages of a Libertarian government. In other words, modify the approach, not the message.

The remaining 29.2% of LP News readers disagreed. The party is too dogmatic, they said — and that uncompromising approach has hindered Libertarians' political success. A more pragmatic, inclusive approach would increase the LP's acceptance among voters, convince more "semi-Libertarian" Americans to join the party, and give the party more political clout.

Here is a representative sample of the responses:

■ **NO.** I am 71 and have voted all my adult life, paying no attention to party lines. I was persuaded to join the LP because it stands for principle. Please don't change.
— PHYLLIS SCHATZ, Boise, Idaho

■ **YES.** The LP must have philosophical depth, but we're not going to appeal to the voter who elected Clinton president by quoting Locke or Jefferson. We must present our principles to the average voter in terms dear to him, terms which affect his economic well-being.
— LEON J. KALINIEC, Prescott, Arizona

■ **NO.** The LP's adherence to political and philosophical principles is its greatest advantage over the Evil Party and the Stupid Party.
— PAUL GARRISON, Greybull, Wyoming

■ **NO.** Many of our ideas from lower taxes, privatization, and civil liberties, to the elimination of wasteful government spending, are ideas that work. We're not held hostage to doctrinaire special interests who want something out of government.
— JEFF EDGENS, Jackson, Kentucky

■ **YES.** Does having positions on children's rights, same-sex marriage, space exploration, and the U.S. Moon Treaty have any practical value except to make us look "extreme?"
— JEFFREY KRADIN, Delray Beach, Florida

■ **NO.** I believe the purpose of government is to protect the life and liberty of its people and nothing more. If it weren't for the LP's doctrine and philosophy, I never would have joined.
— CHRIS BOGAN, Carmel, Indiana

■ **NO.** We are doing fine with philosophy. What we need to focus on are things like our ethics, manners, and our willingness to work hard for our cause.
— TED APELT, Tamarac, Florida

■ **NO.** I am proud that the LP has a philosophy. The truth is that being doctrinaire is an asset which will allow the LP to survive and eventually achieve victory for all freedom-loving Americans.
— JERRY ESKRIDGE, Port Royal, South Carolina

■ **NO.** The LP is rapidly becoming the party that applies unyielding principles in a practical way. Libertarian officeholders and candidates are demonstrating that freedom works. In our case, "unyielding" means "practical."
— TOM ROWLAND, Dublin, Ohio

■ **YES.** The electorate is pragmatic. They want to know what a candidate will do next month, next year —
See **THE PULSE** Page 28

TheMailBox

Windows Pains

The pro and con Microsoft positions [The Forum, June 2000] both miss the facts and a free market solution.

Just a few years ago, Microsoft was reportedly telling its PC manufacturer customers that they could either sell all their units with MS operating systems or none at all. This was a coercive ultimatum; nothing that should be illegal, but bad business ethics.

My own experience is with Windows 98 SE. When I called MS for support, the MS employee was more concerned if the software was pirated than helping me get through one of the many instances of crashing that occurred with this system. On another occasion, I pointed out a glitch in Windows that the support employee acknowledged and he replied, "You can make a request that it be fixed in a later release."

Microsoft gives poor customer service and the operating system was purchased because there was nothing else available, at the time, for a desktop computer. MS has a policy to keep the source code of their products secret, and if you are a good enough programmer to fix the bugs on them, you have violated the MS license. Coercion is force. It is threatening punishment for not complying with someone's will. This is not libertarian.

Bill Gates is not a libertarian. The federal government is run by authoritarians.

Janet Reno's prosecution of MS only disturbs free market justice for MS — that is, if you don't like their products and service and mode of business — vote with

your dollars and boycott their products.

I have since gotten rid of Windows and changed to Linux. I have liked the stability and customer service of my Linux vendor. I have found the application programs to be superior and less expensive than MS-compatible products. Some are even free and work great!

But prosecute Microsoft? Let the old dinosaur die a natural death in a free marketplace.

— THOMAS SMITH
Clearwater, Florida

MICROSOFT:
*Let the old
dinosaur die a
natural death in
the marketplace.*

Off-Shore OS?

I dream of the 30,000 Microsoft folks packing up their families and moving to a Caribbean island. There they could continue their business (most of which is done outside the U.S. anyway) unhindered by the U.S. government.

That being unlikely, I just

started having another dream. In this one, Microsoft agrees to split into two companies — one that creates software, and another that delivers first-class mail.

— JEFF LAIRD
Kingsport, Tennessee

Splitsville USA

In the Microsoft debate, no one has identified the real problem: Microsoft controls the infrastructure in which Windows applications must operate, and this gives them an insurmountable advantage over their competitors in the application market.

If the Microsoft Office groups want a feature added to Windows to enable an improvement in Microsoft Word, they need only go down the hall and ask for it. Others must write for Windows as it stands. As the maker of Windows, Microsoft sets the standards for certification tests that qualify programs as compatible with Windows, and many of the specific criteria suggest a close consultation between the Windows and Office folks.

Netscape must wait until the standards are published and then make sure their products conform, or send them to market uncertified. Although file extensions are the documented method for linking data files with applications, double-click a Word or Excel file with an unregistered extension and Windows will know which program to launch. This means there is code in the operating system to recognize Office files by content, an option unavailable to WordPerfect or Corel.

Microsoft has risen to the top of the heap, but they did not do it
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 28

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ThePulse

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and they don't have much interest in the candidate's political principals. Revolution is neither desired nor needed — yet.

— ROBERT BOYSEN, Hope, New Jersey

■ NO. That's what makes us the party of principle.
— DAVID C. ROTH, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

■ NO. Doctrine, like the Constitution, is a standard. Without a standard, there is only corruption.
— ORVILLE E. SMITH, Texarkana, Texas

■ NO. Doctrinaire means dogmatic and impractical. Is it doctrinaire to stand for something, as principled people do? To take personal responsibility and to allow others the same options you take for yourself?
— CHRISTINA GROTH, Hobbs, New Mexico

■ YES. Many party members would prefer to remain marginalized, shrouded in ideological purity while the status quo tears daily at the fabric of our liberty. The LP should embrace the growing silent minority who share much of the LP's concern but less of its ideology. Only small steps will get us there.
— CHRIS ARABIA, Boston, Massachusetts

■ NO. Strict adherence to principle is what the American people crave, especially in our leaders. It is ignorance and apathy that have allowed the Demopublicans to usurp the liberties of the people.
— PERRY A. MCCULLOUGH, Phoenix, Arizona

Sept. Question: Presidential Advice?

On Sunday, July 2nd, delegates at the Libertarian National Convention will nominate a candidate for president. For the following four months, that LP candidate (whoever he is) will be the "public face" of the party to 100 million voters. And the success of the presidential campaign may have a dramatic effect on the future success of the Libertarian Party. Given the stakes, what *one piece of advice* would you like to give that LP presidential candidate to improve his campaign? Your advice can be about political strategy, campaign issues, presentation, outreach, media, fundraising — *any* aspect of the process that you think can be improved. And to make sure your opinion is considered, we'll pass on *every* suggestion we receive to the presidential campaign.

■ QUESTION: What one piece of advice — strategic, political, issues-based, whatever — would you like to pass on to the 2000 LP presidential candidate? (Please limit answers to no more than 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: August 5, 2000

August Question: The "Pledge"?

It's only 23 words long — but it's generated enormous controversy within the LP. It's the party's "membership statement" (sometimes called "The Pledge") which new members must sign to join the party. It reads: "I certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

The issue: Should the LP require a signed membership statement? Some Libertarians say yes: It articulates our "non-initiation of force" philosophy, and sets us apart from any lunatics who use violence. Other LP members disagree: Other parties don't require a signature for membership, they say, and it may stunt membership growth.

■ QUESTION: Should the Libertarian Party drop its mandatory membership statement? Why or why not? (Please limit answers to no more than 100 words.)

■ DEADLINE: July 5, 2000

ENTRY GUIDELINES: Include name and city/state; anonymous answers won't be tallied. Enter just once per month.
■ E-mail: 73163.3063@compuserve.com. (Please include "Pulse" in subject line.)

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

■ Mail: Libertarian Party, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington DC 20037

TheMailBox

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by producing better products; they did it by making it less viable for consumers to consider alternatives, which in turn makes it less viable for competitors to produce them. Bill Gates says that breaking up Microsoft would stifle innovation by preventing his company from exploiting its technical home field advantages. He speaks as if no other company can produce software, which is ironic given that most of Microsoft's "innovations" originated elsewhere.

The best thing the DOJ can do is to split Microsoft into two companies, and for a period of three to five years (10 years is way too long for the software industry) allow no collaboration between Windows Inc. and Microsoft Inc. Then get out of the way.

Unfortunately, neither Microsoft nor the DOJ are likely to agree to those terms, so the dispute will drag on for years. When the case is finally settled, the government will probably carry its "remedy" to an extreme. The intent to keep the two companies from collaborating would most likely lead to excessive regulation, because if there's one thing our government does not know how to do, it's get out of the way.

— JERRY RIVARD
Stratford, Connecticut

Platform Repairs?

Tom Regnier's article in *LP News* [The Forum, June 2000] about rewording the LP Platform has made me seriously consider the issue for the first time. I have no sentimental attachment to the current platform phrasing, and "cult of the omnipotent state" is a bit daunting, not to mention archaic. Unfortunately, I still haven't seen a better alternative.

The proposed paragraph which says "all people have certain undeniable rights and that among these are the rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness" does have the advantage of evoking the Declaration of Independence, but whenever I read such things, the cynical demon on my shoulder says, "People in this country are denied their rights to life, liberty, property, and the pursuit of happiness on a daily basis. Where has this guy been?"

The danger in talking about "natural rights that the government cannot take away" is that it gives people a false sense of security. I very much fear that when people read or hear such things, their own cynical demons will say, "If you have these rights that the government cannot take away, why does the Libertarian Party insist that you work so hard to keep the government from taking away these rights?"

I don't object to "friendlier" language in our platform, but our platform should recognize that

"THE CULT OF the Omnipotent State" is a bit daunting, not to mention archaic.

the government can and does take away "undeniable," "unalienable" rights. Rights that cannot be taken away by the government? In the real world, there's no such animal.

— CASSANDRA D. HOCUTT
Atlanta, Georgia

Crickenberger Kudos

Congratulations to [LP Political Director] Ron Crickenberger, who was identified by *Campaigns*

and *Elections* magazine as one of the "Rising Stars of Politics 2000" in their latest issue. We need more campaign professionals of Ron's caliber.

— BOB CREAGER
Burtonsville, Maryland

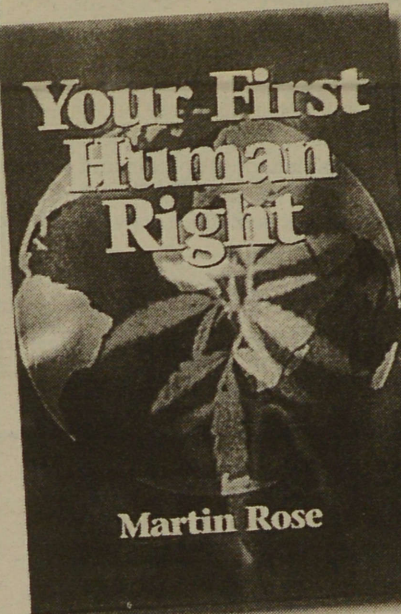
Bugged By "Racism"

As a non-socialist American of European ancestry, I would say that *LP News* should not be ashamed of the April 2000 Forum essay, "The Grasshopper and the Ant," as Christian Hendricks suggests it should be [MailBox, June 2000].

The analogy bears a lot of truth, because the NAACP (represented by the NAACP in April's analogy) is always quick to play the race card when it comes to pressuring Uncle Sugar to dole out taxpayer money to the "poor."

The NAACP is especially in favor of welfare money for those pro-socialist Americans of African ancestry. It should be pointed out at this point that there are enough lazy white grasshoppers and hard-working black ants to dismiss our essay as
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 29

READ IT!



The most controversial Book of 2000!
Your First Human Right
BY MARTIN ROSE

"The best approach to ending the drug war. Martin really hit the point."
— S. Blalock (Prospect Hill, NC)

"Every Libertarian candidate should put the First Human Right issue at the very top of their agenda."
— J. Finnerty (Solvay, NY)

"What a great defense for Kubby, McWilliams, McCormick, and others like them. Their first human right was definitely violated."
— S. Carter (Draper, VA)

"Probably the *only* way to save the small farmer and stop the greenhouse effect. I agree with Martin Rose; restore the first human right."
— E. Scott (Max Meadows, VA)

"The First Human Right could propel the Libertarian Party onto the front page of every national newspaper."
— J. Kirkner (Shawsville, VA)

The single most important question that every politician should have to answer: Do you support the First Human Right? Libertarian candidates should be using the First Human Right approach to ending the drug war, instead of campaigning for total drug legalization that alienates a lot of voters — and hinders Libertarians' chances of recruiting new members that are very supportive of other Libertarian ideas and party Platform. — **Martin Rose, Author**

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not being racist.

Mr. Hendricks should, if he wants to use the racist label, examine some of the Marxist rhetoric being advocated by the NAACP: Affirmative Action, quotas, welfare, food stamps, etc. Mr. Hendricks, here you go again.

— **ROBERT J. HOWARD**
Houston, Texas

■ Libertarians Know...

Democrats believe a school that can't teach kids to read is qualified to teach them about sex. Republicans believe this same school is qualified to teach them about God. Libertarians know that only government monopoly schools have trouble teaching kids to read.

Democrats think tobacco smoke is more dangerous than AIDS. Republicans think marijuana smoke is more dangerous than tobacco. Libertarians know government is more dangerous than all of these put together.

Democrats believe guns cause crime but criminals don't. Republicans believe new gun laws are bad but bad gun laws should be enforced. Libertarians know thousands of Americans are raped and murdered because their government has taken away their right of self-defense.

Democrats think taxes are too low but prices are too high. Republicans think taxes are too high but government spending is too low. Libertarians know prices are too high because taxes and government spending are too high.

Democrats believe culture didn't exist before the NEA. Republicans believe morality didn't exist before the DEA. Libertarians wish they could forget them both.

Democrats believe socialism hasn't worked because the right people weren't in charge. Republicans believe authoritarianism hasn't worked because the right people weren't in charge. Libertarians know liberty does work, everywhere it's been tried, for those who are bold enough to try it.

— **TIM KING**
East Walpole, Massachusetts

■ February Freedom?

David Dyers's idea is brilliant [MailBox, May 2000]. The Libertarian Party could not only recruit more voters, but put the "Party of Principle" into every American's vocabulary. We need to put our presidential primaries and caucuses in the month when most Americans are paying attention to politics.

That would mean putting the meetings into the battlefield between the Republicans and Democrats during the important Iowa and New Hampshire contests. After those events we could start a

more open nomination process by holding less compressed voting, unlike the two-headed vulture Republicrats have done.

People who were shut out by the one-party system would really appreciate an alternative choice in choosing a president. Hopefully we can start this process before the next election cycle.

— **JERRY ESKRIDGE**
Port Royal, South Carolina

■ Who's Online

I agree with Mr. Greway's suggestion [The MailBox, May 2000] that the party's business should be open to all members; if that were only possible. Unfortunately, he makes the same mistaken assumption that the high-tech industry, the stock market, and advertisers are making. (Many ads now give only an Internet address.) They assume that soon, everyone on earth will be on the almighty Internet.

Meanwhile, Luddites like myself avoid the Internet as an unnecessary distraction; perhaps even dangerous and habit-form-

ing. How are we to express our opinions?

The real issue here is majority rule, which is going to be a major stumbling block for the LP. Libertarianism's basic principles lead to the inevitable conclusion that majority rule is coercion. So how do we include everyone?

One hundred percent participation in decisions is impractical. Nothing will ever be agreed upon 100%; human nature is way too complicated for that. This is true of our party, too, even though each member testifies with his signature to what I call "Natural Law" when joining the LP.

Representative government equals majority rule (I use "majority" loosely here) equals coercion. And until we, the LP, think of a better way, we are bound to work within "the system."

— **MARK STRYKER**
Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania

■ Nothing Ventura-ed

As a Libertarian, a former Minnesotan, and a Jesse Ventura supporter, I was saddened by the results of the May Pulse survey.

I was equally saddened by the comments from obviously disappointed Minnesotans. In a state
See **THE MAILBOX** Page 30

Daniel H. Fylstra

Candidate for Vice Chair
National Libertarian Party
www.fylstra.com/vicechair

If you're a delegate to the Libertarian National Convention in Anaheim this summer, vote for Dan Fylstra for Vice Chair — the candidate who stands for:

- Greater use of the Internet to "level the playing field" with the Republicans and Democrats
- Greater emphasis on supporting state and local candidates and winning elections
- Greater professionalism and outreach to the Libertarian movement, and the high-tech community



Dan Fylstra for Vice Chair

Visit www.fylstra.com/vicechair for more information!

Background:

MBA, Harvard Business School
BSEE, Computer Science, M.I.T.
Founder of VisiCorp, marketers of VisiCalc, the first spreadsheet program for PCs

- Region 2 alternate Regional Rep, Libertarian National Committee
- Endorsed by nine LNC members, including the current Vice Chair
- Key figure in revitalizing the LP of Nevada, now the fastest growing state party
- Played key role in the new national Website www.LP.org

Endorsed by Activists:

Hugh Butler, current Vice Chair
Mary Ruwart, Author of *Healing Our World*
Joe Dehn, LP Webmaster & ExecComm member
Steve Givot, Secretary
Mark Tuniewicz, Treasurer
Bill Hall, General Counsel
Terry Savage, Region 2 Rep
Ken Bisson, Region 3 Rep
Elias Israel, Region 6 Rep & Massachusetts State Chair
Mark Hinkle, Chair, LP of California
Chris Azzaro, Exec. Director, LP of Nevada
Peter Schmerl, Chair, LP of Arizona
Jim Dexter, Chair, LP of Utah
Nancy Lord Johnson, LP 1992 VP candidate
Bob Poole, LP Life Member

The MailBox

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ravaged by liberal social welfare programs, and an oppressive tax system, I would reason that the average Minnesotan would welcome change. This is why Ventura was elected.

The big challenge for the Libertarian Party is credibility. We need people like Ventura to give us this credibility.

— **DAVID FOREMANS**
Lawrence, Kansas

Waste In Space

As a long-time worker in the aerospace and space transportation industry, I thoroughly agree

with Peter Orvetti's condemnation of NASA [Libertarian Solutions, May 2000] as an impediment to space travel. His critique contains some misperceptions, however.

For one thing, it is not true that NASA functions as "a shipping service, toting private satellites into the heavens." Although this was an original objective of the shuttle program, the Challenger disaster put that to rest; since then, private payloads have been excluded from shuttle manifests and have been lifted on nominally private launch vehicles (Delta and Atlas). The shuttle is

used exclusively for government-funded payloads and missions.

For another thing, space travel was regarded as fanciful foolishness in Goddard's time. It is still a potentially lethal adventure today. Curiously, it has been the Russians who have developed human spaceflight into a routine affair, each launch being ho-hum, rather than the shuttle's bated-breath celebration of getting off the pad.

The hard reality is that the commercial exploitation of space depends on the use and proliferation of robotic spacecraft; there is not yet any commercial purpose served by humans in space. NASA's fixation on human spaceflight has been grossly premature, a conspicuous diversion of funds, resources, and talent on an activity that has no current place in the market, nor for some time to come. Human spaceflight is inherently costly and complex, and it will require significant expansion of current space exploitation to generate the traffic levels necessary to make human passenger travel an economic possibility.

Regarding the interim steps, I suggest that no useful purpose would be served by privatizing the Space Shuttle, given that it is irremediably uneconomic for commercial purposes and useful only for cost-no-object human spaceflight missions.

Better to consider terminating the Shuttle program altogether, and, with it, the International Space Station boondoggle. Such cancellations would have a sobering effect on the public, finally disabusing them of the idea that NASA is working toward popular access to space.

— **MICHAEL J. DUNN**
Auburn, Washington

Fixing campaign finance

Continued from Page 26

gressional election" — and that's just with two candidates per race. And that doesn't include U.S. Senate races, or the presidential campaign.

Public financing also cements political inequities. In a vicious cycle, alternative parties can rarely meet the required vote totals to get funding, which keeps them poor, which keeps them from getting votes.

■ **Tie contribution and spending caps to inflation.** After Watergate, individual campaign contributions were capped at \$1,000 per candidate. That was a lot of money a quarter-century ago, but in real dollars, it's worth today just over \$300.

While Libertarians strive to remove all caps, in the meantime, updating caps for inflation is just common sense.

■ **Open up the election process.** Most voters don't want "reforms" because they know Republicans and Democrats just work around them. But polls show a majority of voters do want more choices on the ballot.

Step One: Remove the restrictive ballot access laws that keep smaller parties off the ballot. It can cost several million dollars for a new third party presidential candidate to qualify for all 50 state ballots — an exorbitant "entry fee" that reduces competition. Other laws keep alternative party candidates from running for the U.S. House, U.S. Senate, and many statewide offices.

Step Two: At the presidential level, make debates more inclusive. Currently, the Commission

**MOST VOTERS
know Republicans
and Democrats
will just work
around reforms.**

on Presidential Debates (CPD) is run by the former heads of the Republican National Committee and the Democratic National Committee. No wonder they've written rules that are virtually guaranteed to exclude all third party candidates.

More fair entry standards — such as being on the ballot in enough states to win an Electoral College majority — would still result in a manageable number of participants, but would allow voters to see all the viable presidential candidates. And, it certainly would make the debates more lively and interesting.

Open and inclusive

These genuine reforms won't be popular like the feel-good, quick-fix legislation endorsed by many establishment politicians. But they will protect the right of individuals to participate in the political process, increase opportunities for genuine, third-party "insurgency" candidates, and make electoral politics more open and inclusive.

That's not a bad first step for a system that is so badly broken.

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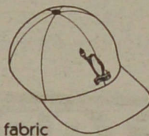
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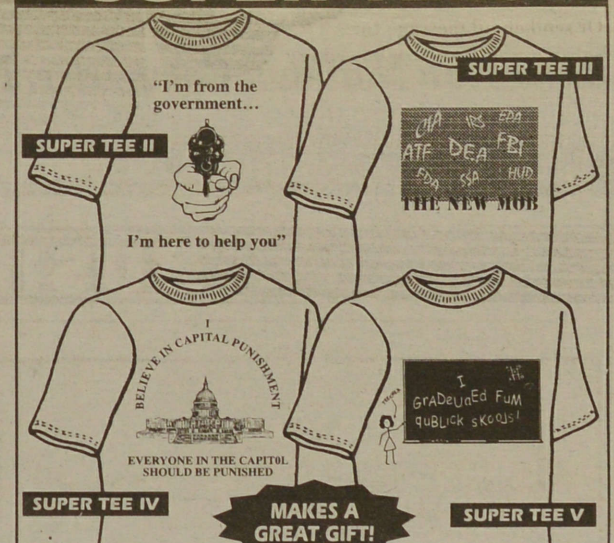
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UpComing

■ June 28-29, 2000

Success 2000, Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California. LP candidate and activist training seminar. Speakers include Steve Dasbach (LP National Director), George Getz (LP press secretary), Barbara Goushaw (campaign manager), and Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director). For information: (202) 333-0008 Ext. 228.

■ June 29-July 3, 2000

Libertarian Party Presidential Nominating Convention, Anaheim Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California. Speakers include Russell Means (star of *The Last of the Mohicans*), Jack Gargan (former Chairman of the Reform Party), Melanie (Emmy Award-winning singer and songwriter), Mike McNulty (producer, *Waco: A New Revelation*), Barbara Branden (author, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*), Neal Boortz (Libertarian radio talk show host), John Berthoud (president, National Taxpayers Union), Marshall Fritz (founder, Separation of School & State Alliance), Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*), Tim Slagle (comedian), Tom Tryon (Calaveras County Commission, CA), Dan Fylstra (founder, VisiCorp), Mike Tanner (Director of Health & Welfare Studies, Cato Institute), David Nolan (founder, Libertarian Party), Mark Skousen (investment advisor), David Thibodeau (author of *A Place Called Waco: A Survivor's Story*), Barbara Goushaw (libertarian campaign manager), Bonnie Flickinger (City Council, Moreno Valley, CA), Phil Miller (City Council, Greenfield, IN), Gary Nolan (syndicated radio talk show host), Sara Cotham (past Executive Director, LP of Indiana), Bill Masters (sheriff, San Miguel County, CO), Jo Jorgensen (1996 LP vice presidential candidate), Sharon Harris (president, Advocates for Self-Government), Reginald Jones (Project 21) and Michael Cloud (creator, *The Art of Political Persuasion*). For information, call: (800) 272-1776. E-mail: LPCONV@aol.com. To register online: www.LP.org/conv/2000/

■ July 23-28, 2000

International Society for Individual Liberty's 20th Annual World Conference, University of Western Ontario, London (Ontario) Canada. Speakers include Barbara Branden (author, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*); libertarian columnists George Jonas and Karen Selick; Johannesburg (South Africa) City Council member Frances Kendall; John Hospers (1972 LP presidential candidate); James Lark III (advisor, Liberty Coalition), and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Leon Louw. For information, call: (800) 226-2405. E-Mail: info@libertyconferences.com. Or visit: www.libertyconferences.com.

■ July 29-August 4, 2000

Cato University, Rancho Bernardo Inn, San Diego, California. A week-long seminar sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers include David Boaz (*Libertarianism: A Primer*), Virginia Postrel (*The Future and Its Enemies*), Randy Barnett (law professor, Boston University), Barbara Branden (author, *The Passion of Ayn Rand*), Donald Boudreaux (Foundation for Economic Education), Doug Bandow (Cato Institute), and Deroy Murdock (Third Millennium). For information and registration, visit: www.cato-university.org. Or call: (202) 218-4633.

■ August 18-20, 2000

Louisiana LP Convention, Best Western Landmark Hotel, Metairie. Speakers TBA. For information, call: (877) 457-7352. E-mail: chair@la.lp.org.

■ September 23, 2000

New Hampshire LP Convention, Center of New Hampshire Holiday Inn, Manchester. Speakers include Paula Werme (LPNH activist and attorney). For information, call: (800) 559-5764. E-mail: liberty@bit-net.com.

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InSide

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■ **PAGE 1** *For the love of politics: Romance and the LP*

■ **PAGE 3** *The LP's political 'Rising Star'*



1st Word

"Liberal and conservative attitudes have increasingly merged when it comes to the issue of whether the 'original intent' Constitution is the rock upon which the republic stands. Both sides now treat it as a gelatinous abstraction that can be molded to suit the expedients of the day. Old-fashioned Libertarians still embrace the rock, and regard both individual and economic rights as sacred."

— Paul Carpenter,
The Morning Call (Allentown, PA), February 13, 2000