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Badnarik for President

Candidate pulls surprise win over Nolan, Russo

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

"Never in my wildest dreams!"

That was Michael Badnarik's initial response to being chosen as the Libertarian Party's candidate for president at the party's national convention in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend.

Badnarik, 49, wasn't the only one surprised by his victory. Based

on polls and Libertarian primaries in the few states that held them, he could be expected to receive about 12-15 percent of the vote — with the real race to be between long-time radio talk show host Gary Nolan and Hollywood movie producer Aaron Russo.

With 808 delegates in the convention hall on Sunday morning, the winner would have to receive a simple majority: 405 votes.

Five candidates were on the ballot for the election, and the names of two — Jeffrey Diket and Dave Hollist — were dropped off after the first vote, when they received four votes and one vote, respectively.

But it was the other numbers — those for Badnarik, Nolan and Russo — that were shocking: At the end of the first count, the candidates were separated by only 12 votes: 258 for Russo, 256 for Badnarik and 246 for Nolan.

Thirteen other delegates voted for "NOTA" (none of the above) or for other write-in candidates.

Nolan was dropped from the ballot after the second vote, since with

244 votes, he received the fewest of the three remaining candidates. Russo, meanwhile, pulled further ahead, with 285 votes, while Badnarik actually lost a few votes, dropping to 249 and just beating Nolan. NOTA received five votes.

And that's when Nolan stepped up to the platform to thank his supporters — and urged them to vote for Badnarik instead, much to the chagrin of the Russo camp. Many of Nolan's backers took his advice, as the third and final vote revealed.

In the end, Badnarik took 54 percent of the vote — winning 423 of 778 votes cast, compared to Russo's 344, and 11 for NOTA.

In another vote later that day, delegates chose Richard Campagna as the LP's vice presidential nominee. Campagna, 52, is an attorney in Iowa City, Iowa.

In his concession speech, Russo noted that the debate the night before had been Badnarik's last-minute turnaround: "I thought Michael wasn't going to do very well, but yesterday he rose to the occasion."

See **BADNARIK** Page 2



Leadership Institute trains to win

By John Cox

There are schools for barbers, mechanics, bookkeepers — for almost every trade you can think of. In Mexico City and Rio there are schools for pickpockets. It turns out that in a suburb of Washington, D.C., there is even a school for politicians and campaign leaders. And it's a good one.

It's the Leadership Institute.

The classes are taught by professional campaign workers, with about eight hours of classes a day for five and a half days. Many of the instructors are Republicans, but the education is appropriate for any party's workers.

My son — Tom Cox, a candidate for Oregon's House of Representatives — once attended a two-day seminar by the institute and found it extremely beneficial. So when he learned about the campaign management seminar, he recommended that I attend.

I'm glad I did. When I worked on Tom's campaign for Oregon governor on the Libertarian ticket two years ago, I quickly recognized that, for the most part, I didn't know what I was doing. There's an art and science to political campaigns that

See **LEADERSHIP** Page 11

Packed house: LP convention exceeds expectations

Ask almost anyone who attended the Libertarian Party's 2004 national convention May 27-31 in Atlanta, Ga., and chances are you'll hear how great it was.

What makes a great Libertarian convention?

■ **A packed house:** Almost double the expected number of people attended. Convention staff budgeted for 610 people to attend, and approximately 1,100

went to the Atlanta Marriott Marquis for the event. And 811 of them were delegates.

■ **Genuine excitement:** Unlike the scripted Democrat and Republican events, the Libertarian presidential nominee was

not announced in advance. Only after a dramatic three-way debate and a cliff-hanger vote was the nominee actually selected.

■ **Live TV coverage:** C-SPAN broadcast the two main events — the presidential candidates' debate and election — live.

■ **Financial success:** If the expected 610 people had shown up, the convention would have broken even; with the 1,100 who came, the event ended

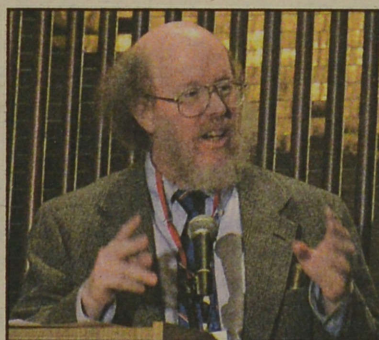
"about \$20,000 in the black, I believe," said Convention Chair Nancy Neale, but the actual figures won't be available for a couple of months. And unlike the upcoming Democratic and Republican conventions, the LP convention was funded without tax dollars.

■ **A roster of speakers that reads like a Who's Who of the Libertarian movement,** including authors James Bovard, Dr. Mary Ruwart, and former LP presidential candidate

Harry Browne; a number of campaign managers; elected Libertarian officials, such as Judge James Gray, Sheriff Richard Mack, Willie Star Marshall and others; current candidates Tom Cox and Jerry Cameron; entertainers Neal

Boortz, Jimmie Vaughan, Poker Face, Dan Litwin, and Dean Cameron; other Libertarian notables including Congressman Ron Paul, Dr. Jim Lark, Sharon Harris, and LP founder David Nolan; and non-libertarians like former Congressman Bob Barr and Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club.

■ Having a presidential debate with opinions that differ from the government. See **CONVENTION** Page 4



■ (l to r) Author James Bovard speaks at a lunch session; Neal Boortz visits with Leah Smith, who joined the party after the convention; and Lorenzo Gastañaga makes a point during discussion of the LP Platform.

NEWS BRIEFS

Richard Mack joins 'American Candidate'

Richard Mack, a two-time elected sheriff in Arizona, has announced he is dropping out of the Utah gubernatorial race — where he was running as a Libertarian — to run for president — on Showtime's new summer series, *American Candidate*.

Mack, 51, was selected as one of 12 finalists for the show, out of some 1,500 hopefuls who signed up via the show's Web site.

One rule of the show is that no one who actually running for office can take part in Showtime's "race." Calling the program a great opportunity, Mack said it would be foolish to turn down the chance at

national airtime and a \$200,000 prize, so he withdrew from the governor's race.

And on June 7 he was delivered a briefcase with instructions to stage a political rally, spending up to \$100, as his first challenge on the reality show.

The show is slated to premiere in August. After 10 weeks, the weekly popular votes, polling samples and program judges will select a candidate from the two remaining contestants.

Once the "campaign" is over, the candidate who wins will have the opportunity to make an actual run for president

■ Richard Mack

— probably as a write-in candidate — if he or she so desires.

Mack intends to run on a Libertarian platform, as he had been doing in the governor's race: Reduce the size and scope of government, reduce debt, legalize marijuana, abolish the IRS and "reclaim the freedom to run our own lives." And better yet, he'll have the chance to preach that message on national television.

Badnarik attends G8 rallies in Savannah, Ga.

As one of his first public speaking appearances since receiving the LP's nomination for president, Michael Badnarik went to Savannah, Ga., to address the tourists, protesters, and supporters who showed up for the Group of Eight (G8) Summit on June 8.

He spoke from a public stage in a downtown Savannah park, and also spoke at two LP rallies earlier in the day.

"The LP views this event as an outstanding opportunity to introduce a variety of people to the concept of a Constitutional government," said Chris Panos, South Carolina LP chair. "Most American voters do not know what a constitutional government should look like simply because they haven't witnessed one in action for decades."

Those in attendance said the crowd was actually smaller and more tame than usual — with more policemen, National Guard and other forces than there were protesters.

The 30th G8 Summit was held at secluded and heavily protected Sea Island, Ga., just off the coast of Brunswick, on June 8-10.

However, many summer tourists still flocked to Savannah in hopes of a glimpse of delegates and the protesters that always attend the G-8 to make their opinions known.

Libertarian activist Frank Nugent dies

Longtime Libertarian activist Franklin M. Nugent died March 21 at his home in Missouri. He was 79.

A Libertarian since the late 1970s, Nugent inspired younger activists, said Mary Anne Gassmann, former chair of the Jefferson County (Mo.) LP.

"He wisely counseled us younger activists, devoting funds and equipment, or he and [his wife] Dorie would turn their home into a temporary motel and bunker for marchers or petitioners for the latest cause."

Andre Marrou, the LP's 1992 candidate for president, fondly remembered spending time with the Nugents while campaigning.

"Frank not only offered sage advice on a wide spectrum of campaign issues, he also provided a bed and breakfast and office, replete with my own phone line, fax machine and computer."

Nugent's exposure to the LP later led to his involvement with the Fully Informed Jury Association (FIJA), which seeks to inform everyone about the rights juries have — including the right to find defendants not guilty because the jury finds the law to be unjust.

In addition to his political work, Nugent worked with severely autistic children, helped raise money for a medical clinic in Honduras and had a wide range of hobbies.

Nugent's March 27 memorial service brought more than 140 libertarian activists, authors, former LP officers and other friends together to remember the man that Paul Jacob — now president of the Citizens-In-Charge Foundation of Virginia — referred to as "a great Libertarian and libertarian resource."

Badnarik wins presidential nomination

Continued from Page 1

During the debate — which was carried live on C-SPAN — the three primary candidates delivered few barbs at each other, choosing instead to target the Republicans and Democrats. But Badnarik's abundant presence and formidable knowledge of the Constitution, to which he referred constantly onstage, trumped his opponents' strengths.

One delegate noted: "Russo has passion. Nolan is very polished. But I really think Badnarik was the big winner tonight. The man's intellect is remarkable, and tonight he really rallied. I don't think anyone expected this reaction to Badnarik's comments, myself included."

Tom Baxter, chief political correspondent for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, moderated the debate.

Addressing questions on free trade, same-sex marriage, prescription drugs and healthcare, the threat of a military draft, foreign policy and other issues, the three candidates' positions were often similar, with differences in delivery taking major importance.

Where Badnarik's answers were prompted by his knowledge of and reliance on the Constitution, Nolan frequently proposed solutions using libertarian concepts of free trade and market economics and Russo tended toward a gut-level response that left some viewing him positively as the "common-man" candidate.

But continually, Badnarik returned to the Constitution for his responses.

"Twenty years ago I began studying the Constitution," he said in his acceptance speech. "And I got very confused. I saw no connection between the Constitution and our government. And the reason ... is that there is none."

And that's the problem he wants to fix, he says.

One of Badnarik's most effective illustrations during the debate was comparing the U.S. government to a fire in the house: A fire in the fire-

place is good, just like a government that operates within the bounds of the Constitution is good.

But if the fire gets out of the fireplace, it is a bad fire and needs to be stamped out; and "any time government gets outside the Constitution, it is a bad government, and you have to stamp it out," Badnarik said as he concluded his opening comments, to riotous applause.

And as he said in his acceptance speech, the reason Libertarians showed up in Atlanta ("because of a steadfast refusal to give up") is the same reason he attracted voters, who recognized "that I have done my very best to support our principles, and I have not given up."

In the weeks since the convention, "the entire party has rallied around Michael Badnarik," said Barbara Goushaw-Collins, one third of The Troika, a Michigan-based Libertarian campaign management group. "No matter who people supported for the nomination, they are now behind him 100 percent."

That includes Badnarik's former opponents: Nolan and Russo have both "been doing post-convention

revamped Badnarik's Web site, including position statements; answered almost 2,400 e-mails; raised over \$70,000 in campaign contributions; pulled together an organization that includes representatives from almost every state; and established an account to allow people to donate online, Goushaw-Collins says.

And Badnarik, in the same two weeks, did about 70 pre-scheduled interviews on radio, television and in the print media, as well as "an uncounted number of impromptu media interviews such as at the G8 conference" in coastal Georgia and with "the cameras that keep following him around in Austin," she said — noting that "it is requiring three people just to return calls, and schedule media requests."

The attention Badnarik has been receiving in recent weeks is reaffirming something he said in his acceptance speech: "I have discovered that there are Libertarians in all 50 states, and we have all been working. But because we lack a system of communication, we often think that our little group is the only group working."

Through improved communication — both to Libertarians and to the American population at large — Badnarik said he believes the party, with himself as the candidate, can make a real difference this election year.

"What we have in 2004 is an opportunity to help change the world," he said. "The Republicans accuse us of taking votes from Bush. The Democrats accuse us of taking votes from Kerry. As the Libertarian candidate, I'm hoping to take as many votes from both sides as possible."

As he said when concluding his acceptance speech, Badnarik is accustomed to being the underdog.

But now he's had a taste of victory, and it's going to drive his campaign: "If I can win the nomination, there's no reason I can't win this election," he proclaimed.



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NATIONAL CHAIR:
Michael Dixon

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



LP NEWS EDITOR:
J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS PUBLISHER:
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EDITOR EMERITUS:
Karl Hess ♦ 1923-1994

SEND NEWS, LETTERS, ESSAYS, PHOTOGRAPHS, OR ADVERTISING:

Daniel Cloud
2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Ste 100
Washington, DC 20037
Phone: (202) 333-0008 x226
E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org

SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:
Libertarian Party

2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100
Washington, DC 20037
Or call: (202) 333-0008 x 223

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

Dixon elected to LP's top post

Delegates to the Libertarian Party's national convention May 27-31 elected a new chairman for the Libertarian National Committee. Michael Dixon, of Charlotte, NC, was overwhelmingly elected on the first ballot, drawing 76 percent of the 572 votes cast.

Dixon served on the LNC as a member-at-large from 1998-2000 and 2002-2004, and was a regional representative on the body in 2000-2002, experience that he believes has prepared him to take leadership on the committee. He also sits on the executive committee of the North Carolina LP, and was earlier active in the Illinois LP, as secretary, vice chair and chair.

Leading up to the election, Dixon said he had proven himself by chairing the LNC subcommittees that hired current LP executive director Joe Seehusen and that re-worked the LP's official platform over the past two years.

Professionally, Dixon is a self-employed sales and management consultant in the nonprofit and financial services industries, and he holds an MBA in industrial management from the University of Dallas.

The national Libertarian Party "must recognize the limits of activism in today's political arena, and where professional talent is required, be ready to deliver it," Dixon said.

"We have some of the best minds and greatest political talents in the country in this party. [But] we must recognize the need to improve our marketing techniques and reach out to the general public, while ensur-

ing that our party remains true to its principles."

Dixon said that in his professional life, he helps businesses and individuals define their goals and move toward getting what they want — and he hopes to do the same in his LP leadership role.

And because the goal of the LP is to affect public policy by electing Libertarians to public office, that should be the primary emphasis of the national committee, he said.

Dixon said he hopes to ensure that all state, county and university affiliates of the Libertarian Party receive the encouragement they need "to become stronger and more capable in executing their core political work."

"Our activists need resources and access in order to be successful, and then they need a national organization that knows how and when to get out of their way, without aban-

doning them in the process."

Dixon had two opponents in his campaign: Ernest Hancock, host of a Libertarian radio talk show in Phoenix, Ariz., and George Phillies, a physics professor at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.

Hancock and Phillies won, respectively, 7 percent and 16 percent of the vote.

Dixon, 41, is married and has a five-year-old son.



■ Mike Dixon: New LNC Chair

Advocates offer communication seminars

The Advocates for Self-Government will host a series of seminars around the country from July to October that will teach libertarians how to become more convincing, compelling communicators.

The weekend-long seminars — called "The Art of Libertarian Persuasion" — will give libertarians an opportunity to learn communication skills that will be especially useful in this election year, said Advocates President Sharon Harris.

"You'll learn an arsenal of communication techniques you can put to use right away," she said. "It will turbo-charge your communication skills! That's great, because in this presidential year, Americans are more open than any other time to learning about new political ideas."

The seminars will be held in Arlington, Va. (July 31-Aug. 1), Denver, Col. (Aug. 7-8), Los Angeles, Cal. (Aug. 21-22), Dallas, Texas (Aug. 28-29), Framingham, Mass. (Sept. 18-19), Seattle, Wash. (Sept. 25-26), Columbus, Ohio (Oct. 2-3), San Francisco, Cal. (Oct. 16-17), and San Diego, Cal. (Oct. 23-24).

The seminars will be led by Mi-

chael Cloud, author of the just-published book, "Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion." In 2000, he won the Libertarian Party's Thomas Paine Award as the most effective libertarian communicator in America.

"Michael is one of the pioneers of teaching powerful libertarian communication," Harris said. "We're delighted to be able to bring his expertise to libertarians around the country."

Guest presenters at various seminars include Harry Browne (two-time LP presidential candidate), Mary Ruwart (author, "Healing Our World"), Sharon Harris, Bill Winter (past editor, LP News), and Carla Howell (chair, Committee for Small Government).

The seminars will teach libertarians how to make people more receptive to libertarian ideas; how to give the best libertarian answer to questions; how to open closed minds; how to use "Intellectual Judo" against big-government supporters; how to answer common objections to libertarianism; how to give more effective speeches; how to avoid common communication mistakes; and more.

"The seminar is fast-paced and intensive, and it's also exhilarating and inspiring," Harris said. "You'll improve your communication skills almost immediately. Attendees find they learn techniques that produce results the next day when they get home!"

"The Art of Libertarian Persuasion" seminars will be especially helpful to candidates, party spokespeople, letter-to-the-editor writers, media coordinators and outreach activists, Harris said.

However, she added, "Anyone who wants to persuade others to embrace libertarian ideas will benefit immensely. Whether you're brand-new to libertarianism or have been a libertarian for decades, you will leave this seminar a far more effective, persuasive 'salesperson' for the ideas of liberty."

Admission for "The Art of Libertarian Persuasion" seminar is \$250 at the door. However, a pre-registration price of \$195 is available.

For more information about "The Art of Libertarian Persuasion" seminars, or to register, call (800) 932-1776 or visit www.TheAdvocates.org.

POLITICAL NEWS

Texas petition drive appears successful

The push to get Libertarian candidates on the ballot in Texas is over, and success is all but assured as the Texas LP has submitted tens of thousands more signatures than the state requires.

The Libertarian Party of Texas announced May 24 that they had completed their ballot access drive, having collected more than 80,000 petition signatures they submitted to the secretary of state's office later in the day.

The state party needed to collect 45,540 valid signatures in order to qualify nearly 80 Libertarian candidates for local, state and federal offices in Texas for the November ballot.

While the secretary of state was unable to tell immediately whether the ballot drive was successful — each signature will have to be verified before that announcement is made — state and ballot access officials feel confident they met their goal.

"The primary screen out rule, which prevented anyone who voted in the March Republican and Democrat primaries from signing our petition, made the drive extremely difficult," said LPTX Ballot Access Committee Chair Patrick Dixon.

"We had problems getting access to collect signatures, enduring harassment from security and police, even on public property. We also had to raise \$150,000 to hire the petitioners we needed to complete the job. Despite these obstacles, we are stronger for having accomplished this goal."

"It is very important that the third largest political party be on the ballot in the second largest state," said Bill Redpath, ballot access coordinator for the national LP.

"Texas has been a focus for us, and has been the most challenging state in the country due to its restrictive ballot access laws."

"Ultimately, whether we succeed or fail, we should be very proud of our valiant effort," said Wes Benedict, volunteer coordinator for the ballot drive.

"Just two months ago we were debating whether or not we should just give up this year," Benedict added.

Petition drives continue in many other states that have longer petitioning periods.

Gray decries 'Three Strikes' laws

The "Three Strikes" laws in California and other states are too tough and arbitrary, and frequently tie the hands of judges, says California Superior Court Judge Jim Gray, the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate from Orange County.

Gray is the first candidate for statewide office to endorse the ballot measure that would amend the California "Three Strikes" law.

There are 42,322 people in California state prisons on second and third strikes, according to the Department of Corrections.

Only one-third of them were incarcerated for violent crimes. Most of the other two-thirds committed non-violent property or drug offenses. There are three times more marijuana offenders incarcerated on a third strike than for the offenses of robbery, rape and murder combined.

"From what I see as a trial court judge, the Three Strikes sentencing law is often inefficient and unduly rigid," said Gray, who was appointed to the municipal court in 1983 and to the superior court in 1989. "We could save hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars every year by simply requiring a third strike be a violent offense."

If the initiative is approved in November, criminals convicted of third offenses would still receive mandatory 25-years-to-life sentences for violent crimes such as assault with a deadly weapon, rape, robbery or murder.

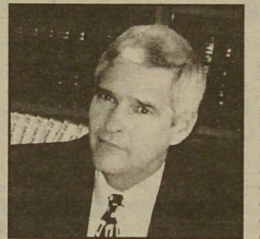
This week, the California Secretary of State's office told organizers of the "Citizens Against Violent Crime" that they had gathered enough signatures to place the measure on the ballot, after years of trying to qualify the initiative.

The ballot measure, which has not been assigned a proposition number, would also toughen prison sentencing for those convicted of sexually abusing children.

While Gray is the sole statewide candidate to endorse the measure, organizers do have the public backing of eight state lawmakers, six county supervisors and other local officials.

In Gray's own race, Sen. Barbara Boxer is silent on the measure and Bill Jones, who authored the original legislation, stands firmly opposed to modifying the law.

"It is a travesty we spend a billion dollars a year just for the health care costs of the state inmate population, many of whom have long ago stopped being a threat to society," Gray said. "We simply have to bring sanity and fiscal responsibility back to our sentencing laws."



■ Judge Jim Gray

Libertarian convention attendance exceeds expectations

Continued from Page 1

mental norm, with candidates who believe in freedom, and with an audience that actually responds to the debates — even changing how they vote based on debate performance. ■ Perhaps most importantly, a great convention would enable more than 1,000 Libertarians to gather in a single room for the weekend, debate the issues, argue and even scream at each other over internal matters, have a lot of fun, then leave the convention hall ready to take on the world in the name of liberty.

If that's your definition of a great convention but you weren't in Atlanta, rest assured: The event managed all these things, and more.

Candidates and delegates began showing up on Tuesday, two days before the opening night party — for organizational sessions and classes — and they came in numbers large enough that then-LNC chair Geoff Neale began jokingly "worrying" that there wouldn't be room for everyone who came.

Major items of business included electing the party's presidential and vice presidential candidates, approving changes to the LP Platform's format, and electing new members to the Libertarian National Committee. (See stories on those events elsewhere in this edition of *LP News*.)

Michael Dixon was elected chair of the party; R. Lee Wrights of North Carolina was elected vice chair over Mark Selzer of California; Mark Nelson of Ohio was elected treasurer over Aaron Starr of California; and Bob Sullenstrup ran unopposed for the secretary's position.

Other LNC representatives elected included:

■ Region 1-East — Dan Karlan. Al-

ternate Mark Cenci.

■ Region 1-West — Ed Hoch. Alternate Jeremy Thompson.

■ Region 2 — M Carling and Aaron Starr. Alternates Mark Hinkle and Scott Lieberman.

■ Region 3 — Dena Bruedigam. Alternate Emily Salvette.

■ Region 4 — Michael Gilson de Lemos. Alternate Chris Farris.

■ Region 5-East — Jim Lark. Alternate Chuck Moulton.

**OUR HEARTS ARE IN
the right place ...
but we fail in
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that we care. We
have to talk to
Americans about
things they care
about.**

—GEOFF NEALE

■ Region 5-West — Jeremy Keil. Alternate Tony Ryan.

■ Region 6 — George Squyres. Alternate Tim Hagan.

■ At-large members — Mark Rutherford, Rick McGinnis, William Redpath, BetteRose Ryan and Michael Colley.

As just a hint of the wide variety of speakers, here are some sound bites from the convention:

■ During the Neal Boortz speech,

anti-Boortz protestors met in another room to protest the Iraq war, which Boortz supports. But he avoided that topic almost entirely.

"I am not ideologically pure, but for the most part I'm preaching the Libertarian message," he said during his breakfast talk — which centered on effective ways to communicate the LP's message of liberty.

"You can sit anyone down who is semi-rational, and within 30 minutes you can convince them that your position on legalizing drugs is right," he said. "But what if you only have 10 seconds? Would you be more effective saying, 'We should legalize drugs,' or saying, 'We want to protect your property rights, to keep government from trying to take your home away from you'? Present something to the public that they can understand."

■ "Saying that Libertarians are pro-drugs is like saying that doctors who oppose using leeches to fight cancer are pro-cancer. There's a big difference between being pro-drugs and being against the War on Drugs." — Garrett Michael Hayes, vice chair of the Georgia LP, in a radio interview during the convention.

■ Regarding terrorism: "We've signed a pledge that we don't agree with those kinds of tactics. The existence of our pledge has saved us from accusation when Libertarians were called in for questioning. They were able to point out that the LP is the only political organization that requires signing a pledge that we do not believe in using force to solve society's problems." — David Nolan, founder of the LP.

■ "There are militant Muslim groups that hate the United States government. But they don't have to over-

throw the government. All they have to do is set off a few well-placed bombs and lead our government to turn itself into a facsimile of the government they're used to." — David Nolan.

■ "Our hearts are in the right place, and we reason very well, but we fail in showing people that we care. We have to talk to Americans about things they care about," including environmental concerns. — Geoff Neale, outgoing national chair.

■ "The concept of ownership ... works for products. It works for land. It doesn't work for the sky. Does the sky belong to the first guy who decides to dump sulfur dioxide into the sky, poisoning it? I don't believe that the existing power in Washington believes in the future of America. I do believe that government can help the environment, or that government can cause damage. I encourage you to find a solution to the environmental problems that does not involve government involvement." — Carl Pope, executive director of the Sierra Club.

■ "Eminent domain is capital punishment on property." — Jerry Cameron, Libertarian candidate for the Florida legislature.

■ Regarding U.S. intervention in foreign disputes, including the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the United States should say, "Go kill each other if you want to, but leave us out of it. If we take on another country's problems, they become our problems." — Aaron Russo.

■ "There is no call for a national party or a national committee that does anything to benefit some members at the expense of others." — Mike Dixon, in a debate of the candidates for LNC chair.

■ "What we need is a national party that gets out of the way. I don't want Libertarians to become another group that has to ask for permission to do what they want to do." — LNC chair candidate Ernest Hancock.

■ Subcommittees of the LNC should "do activism instead of primarily doing internal governance. ... The best thing the LNC can do is facilitate activism, and do politics 100 percent of the time." — George Phillies, in the chair candidates' debate.

And Dixon, who concluded the debate, repeated the call to activism: "Get out of the house, get off the e-mail, stop reading so many books, stop writing so many books, and go talk to your neighbor."

LP Platform reformat: Progress and plans

By George Squyres
REGION 6 LNC REPRESENTATIVE

With the adoption of the new format for the LP Platform by the Atlanta delegates, a milestone in the LP, it's time to take stock of our progress and to make projections for the continued development of our Platform.

After the project was authorized by delegates to the 2002 national convention, the '02 Platform Committee began imposing the new format onto the existing planks, placing the language into the category whose function it best served.

In this process, it became obvious that much of the language did not fare well under rigorous scrutiny — that it did not fit into the format and would need to be changed.

But to reassure Atlanta delegates that Platform changes were not being made surreptitiously, both the original language and proposed new language were presented to delegates in the new format.

New language was created only

where the format demonstrated clearly that there was no suitable language for one of the four categories.

The result proved acceptable to the Atlanta delegates by a margin of 253-42, an encouraging validation of the committee's work.

The delegation also empowered the '04 committee to continue the work of rewriting the language under the new format as a special committee, until the formation of the '06 Platform Committee.

The committee has requested a Web site accessible to all party members for the purpose of taking input from the members not only for specific language but for a prioritizing of which planks are most in need of work.

This will not be a request to rewrite the positions expressed in specific planks, but will ask for the members to express their preference as to which planks in the Platform are most poorly worded: Which need replacement language because the existing language simply does not

accomplish the function of the category?

The results of this poll will be online and available to all. By the time we all get to the '06 convention, the delegation should be very aware of the proposals from the Platform committee that they will be presented with.

It is our sincere hope that the '06 delegates will be able to approve 15 planks presented in the new format, making the 15 worst into the 15 best. In time, we'll produce a superior document, one that is true to principle, an asset to our candidates, and no longer a source of division in our ranks.

The success of that will depend not on future Platform committees, who will undoubtedly burn as much midnight oil as the last two have, but on our members being at the next convention, lending support to our efforts.

Your support in changing the Platform has already shown what is now possible for the LP. I'd like to think we've only just started.

Private space program

By the time you read this story, the world should already know about the first-ever privately funded, manned space flight: A rocket plane funded by investor Paul G. Allen and designed in part by aviation legend Burt Rutan has by now either reached sub-orbital outer space — making aviation history and proving that space travel doesn't need to be government funded — or it has failed.

On June 21, a pilot intends to fly the plane — SpaceShipOne — 62 miles high and back again. Some Libertarians believe it could be the greatest libertarian project of all time.

"This is a whole new era in travel," says Arizona's Ernest Hancock, who plans to drive with about a dozen other Libertarians to see the flight in Mojave, Calif. "These people are sending a pilot — an astronaut — into space with zero government involvement. It's phenomenal."

"This is probably the most important event in this election cycle, and we've got to be there. This is going to be an enormous, historic event. We're talking about privately funded space travel."

Allen — founder of Vulcan Inc. — wants to be the first to create a reusable aircraft that will take three people into sub-orbital space and return them safely to the ground, then do it again within two weeks.

If it happens, he'll win an international competition called the Ansari X Prize. Rutan and the team at Scaled Composites have already flown up to 211,400 feet — higher than any other non-government flight.

People have come to expect great things from Rutan, developer of the Voyager, which in 1986 was the first aircraft to fly around the world without refueling.

"Since Yuri Gagarin and Al Shepard's epic flights in 1961, all space missions have been flown only under large, expensive government efforts," Rutan said. "Our program involves a few dedicated individuals ... focused entirely on making spaceflight affordable."

If that's not a libertarian sentiment, what would be?

The June 21 flight will be a solo mission, but SpaceShipOne is equipped with three seats — for a pilot and two passengers.

And when it takes off and heads for space, there will be many Libertarians in the crowd observing — trusting that the plane will make it and prove that government involvement is not the sole ticket to space travel.

"We'll be there to pass out stuff, get in front of the cameras, and bring as much attention to the Libertarian name and ideas as we can," said Hancock, a radio show host who recently ran for chair of the LNC.

"How much is it worth to be at a private space launch, one of the most libertarian projects ever, getting Libertarian activists and candidates on camera? This is a great opportunity, and we need to get on it."

THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT PROUDLY PRESENTS

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What You'll Learn

Why libertarians don't need "A Better Mouse-trap." (p.23)

What libertarians can learn from Mark Twain's Cat. (p.34)

When impatience undermines libertarian progress. (p.52)

How to gently dissolve many objections in 60 seconds. (p.63)

Get people to "Push the Button" and become libertarians. (p.81)

Treasure Map for finding people who urgently want freedom. (p.83)

One deadly mistake almost every libertarian makes – and how to avoid it. (p.96)

"You know enough about libertarianism to buy it, but do you know enough to *sell* it?" (p.126)

When to "Save Your Breath." (p.165)

The Biggest Libertarian Communication Turnoff. (p.171)

How to handle "The Toughest Prospects: Family and Friends." (p.185)

Danger: "Counterfeit Libertarianism." (p.210)

"The Unsettling Question Libertarians Almost Never Ask." (p.236)

And much more!

BY MICHAEL CLOUD

Is This For You?

If you joined the Libertarian Party in the last 10 years, you'll reap huge rewards from *Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion*.

If you talk about libertarianism with your family, friends, co-workers, or neighbors, you will start seeing astonishing differences almost *immediately*.

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"Some libertarians succeed by re-inventing the wheel. Most libertarians fail by re-inventing the flat tire," says Michael Cloud.

Michael Cloud is uniquely qualified to unlock the mysteries of effective communications. A professional speechwriter, he has penned more than 460 speeches for business, non-profit, and political clients. In 2000, Michael won the Thomas Paine Award as the best Libertarian Communicator in America.

For 29 years, Michael Cloud has studied; investigated, tested, and refined hundreds of different approaches to persuasive libertarian communication. He's mapped the safest and best paths through the dangerous communication minefield.

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Secrets of Libertarian Persuasion is a charming and readable book. It's rich with new insights and outlooks, parables, one-liners, stories, unforgettable phrases, and power tools for persuasion. It's 240 pages. It's \$15 (+ \$4.50 S&H)

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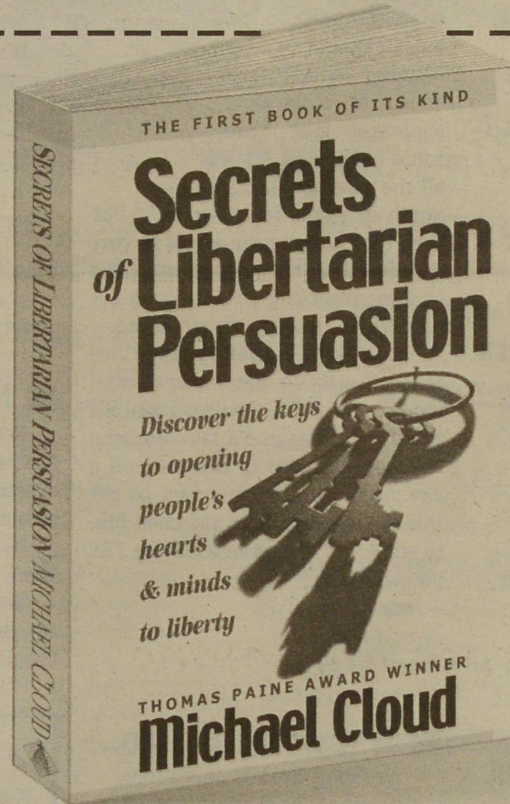
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TALKING POINTS

'Day After Tomorrow,' reasons for war, fat kids and other lies

Lies and propaganda

Cato Senior Fellow Patrick Michaels warned yesterday at a news conference that "this movie [*The Day After Tomorrow*] does not tell the truth" about global warming. He says the movie can't even be considered science fiction because true science fiction films are based on actual scientific fact.

"This film is propaganda designed to shift the policy of this nation on climate change," Michaels writes in today's *USA TODAY*. He cautions that the movie could be used to push through Congress a global warming bill sponsored by Sens. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and Joe Lieberman (D-Conn.) that will do nothing measurable to affect the global climate.

"Remember that propaganda can have consequences," he writes. "Lies cloaked as science should never determine how we live our lives."

—CATO DAILY DISPATCH
May 25, 2004

Unclean hands

Sen. John F. Kerry sent 28 letters in behalf of a San Diego defense contractor who pleaded guilty last week to illegally funneling campaign contributions to the Massachusetts senator and other congressmen.

Members of Congress often write letters supporting constituent businesses and favored projects. But as the Democratic presidential front-runner, Kerry has promoted himself as a candidate who has never been beholden to campaign contributors.

Between 1996 and 1999, Kerry participated in a letter-writing campaign to free up federal funds for a guided missile system that defense contractor Parthasarathi "Bob" Majumder was trying to build.

Kerry's letters were sent to fellow members of Congress — and to the Pentagon — while Majumder and his employees were donating money to the senator, court records show. During the three-year period, Kerry received about \$25,000 from Majumder and his employees...

Court documents say the contractor told his employees they needed to make political contributions in order for him to gain influence with members of Congress. He then reimbursed them with proceeds from government contracts.

—LISA GETTER AND TONY PERRY
The Los Angeles Times
February 19, 2004

Military service

Benedict Arnold was a war hero, wounded in battle — before he

turned against his country. Hitler was likewise a decorated and wounded veteran of the First World War. Being a war hero is not a lifetime "get out of jail free" card, exempting you from responsibility for what you do thereafter.

—THOMAS SOWELL
TownHall.com
February 25, 2004

**THE MEDIA ARE
finished with their
big blowouts on the
anniversary of the
invasion of Iraq, and
there's one thing
they forgot to say:
We're sorry.**

—RICK MERCIER

A hard sell

"President Bush's approval ratings are at an all-time low. But people still don't like John Kerry either. So what we have are two guys that no one likes. No wonder we can't sell democracy in Iraq. We can't even sell it here."

—JAY LENO
The Tonight Show
June 7, 2004

Stating the facts, or not

Minimum number of misleading statements on Iraq made by the Bush administration's top officials since March 2002: 237.

Percentage of these that contradicted, made selective use of or mischaracterized existing government intelligence: 100.

—HARPERS INDEX
Harper's magazine
May 2004

TV ads = Fat kids?

When my daughter was 6, she spent a morning watching cartoons, during which she saw one commercial after another for cereal, candy, and cookies. Inspired by these messages, she grabbed her purse, drove to the grocery store, and loaded up the car with Cap'n Crunch, Skittles, and Oreos. That was all she ate for a month.

The astute reader will notice a few hints that I made this story up: Six-year-olds do not drive, and they

usually do not have access to large sums of cash. Even if they did, their parents probably would notice if they embarked upon a month-long junk food binge.

At a recent Cato Institute forum, Dale Kunkel, a University of California at Santa Barbara communications professor who wants the government to fight obesity by restricting or banning food ads aimed at children, confessed that "you could easily say, 'This is all the parents. The child does not drive to the supermarket.'" But then the conversation would be very short, and all the people who came to Cato expecting an hour-long debate would go away disappointed.

To test the plausibility of the idea that advertising has a substantial impact on weight, Zywicki asked his audience to imagine a fat child who watches six hours of Nickelodeon a day. Would you expect him to get thinner if his parents switched him to six hours of commercial-free PBS programming?

—JACOB SULLUM
Reason Online
June 11, 2004

If it works in Iraq...

"President Bush is going to establish elections there in Iraq. He's going to rebuild the infrastructure. He's going to create jobs. He said if it works there, he'll try it here."

—DAVID LETTERMAN
Late Show with David Letterman
May 25, 2004

Support for war

A majority of American registered voters polled from across the nation now say conditions in Iraq did not merit war, but most are reluctant to abandon efforts there, according to a new Los Angeles Times poll.

Fifty-three percent of respondents said the situation in Iraq did not merit war, while 43 percent said war was justified. When the same question was asked for Times polls in March and November, the numbers were precisely reversed.

But less than 20 percent said America should withdraw its troops within weeks, and 25 percent said the U.S. should set a deadline for

pulling out.

Voters' mounting worries about the war have damaged their confidence in President Bush, the poll showed. Forty-four percent said they approved of Bush's handling of the war, compared to 51 percent in March.

A majority of voters said presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry has done little to help: The poll found that 34 percent said Kerry has not offered a clear plan to handle the war, while 15 percent said he has. The other voters said

Arizona senator said he's not interested, said a Democratic official who spoke on condition of anonymity because Kerry has insisted that his deliberations be kept private.

A second official familiar with the conversations confirmed the account, and said the Arizona senator made it clear he won't change his mind.

Both officials said Kerry stopped short of offering McCain the job, sparing himself an outright rejection that would make his eventual running mate look like a second choice.

"Senator McCain categorically states that he has not been offered the vice presidency by any one," said McCain's chief of staff, Mark Salter, who would not confirm the officials' account.

Kerry spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter declined to comment.

The development may lay to rest speculation that Kerry and McCain would reach across Washington's deep partisan divide and forge an unprecedented political partnership.

—CNN.COM
June 11, 2004

they didn't know.
—THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
June 11, 2004

No thanks, John

Republican Sen. John McCain has personally rejected John Kerry's overtures to join the Democratic presidential ticket and forge a bipartisan alliance against President Bush.

Kerry has asked McCain as recently as late last month to consider becoming his running mate, but the

Make the grade

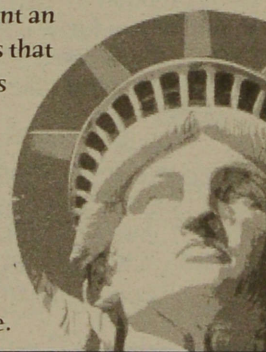
New York City Councilwoman Margarita Lopez wanted to protest a proposed requirement that third graders in city schools pass a standardized test before they are allowed to enter fourth grade. In doing so, she sent out two press releases containing spelling and grammatical errors.

"Why is Mayor Bloomberg and

"Tyranny is always better organized than freedom."

—CHARLES PEGUY, FRENCH PHILOSOPHER (1873-1914)

That's not all: It's got more people working for it, too. And it's better funded. That's where you come in. If you want America to someday live up to its noble libertarian ideals, the Libertarian Party needs to be able to mount an effective challenge to the political parties that are more interested in pushing us towards tyranny than towards liberty. How can you help? By naming the LP in your will or insurance policy. For a private discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 344-0013. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



Chancellor Klein ignoring the fact that the test is flawed and discriminatory?" she asked.

Later, she wanted to know "Why are advocates targeted for examining testing procedures and policies implemented by the Department of Education?" She later sent out a letter correcting the first mistake, but that letter spelled procedures "proceedures."

—CHARLES OLIVER
Reason Online
May 26, 2004

■ Property rights

As I understand free market environmentalism, the prescription works like this: Accept and strengthen private property rights; then allow private parties to work together to find reasonable solutions. Although there is much to be said for this two-part recipe, there are some problems.

To begin with, although property rights can take a dizzying variety of forms, the image we all have of property is of property in land.

This implicit analogy can be misleading. The picture is that you can draw thin lines across the landscape and slice it up with a super-sharp knife. That's yours on that side of this Euclidean line. This is mine. You do what you want on your land. I do what I want on mine. We are next to each other, yet severed from one another.

The problem is that we are not severable from each other. We are parts of communities. If you build a giant hotel on your lot, you block my view. If you start your car, you'll damage my lungs. ...

When we are jointly responsible for a conflict, it is not easy to determine whose rights to productive enjoyment of property should take precedence. ... The line between your property rights and mine is quite fuzzy and a legitimate subject for a debate — one that often boils down to irreconcilable differences in values and vision.

A lot of environmental problems can be seen as conflicts over which rights should take precedence. Do water polluters get precedence over those who would fish in clean water bodies, or vice versa?

Since people's values and the realities of a society change over time, how the boundaries are drawn between property rights must be allowed to evolve over time.

—DAVID ROODMAN
PERC Reports
March 1, 2004

■ 'We're sorry'

The media are finished with their big blowouts on the anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, and there's one thing they forgot to say: We're sorry.

Sorry we let unsubstantiated claims drive our coverage.

Sorry we were dismissive of experts who disputed White House charges against Iraq.

Sorry we let a band of self-serving Iraqi defectors make fools of us.

Sorry we fell for Colin Powell's performance at the United Nations.

Sorry we couldn't bring ourselves to hold the administration's feet to the fire before the war, when it really mattered.

Maybe we'll do a better job next war.

Of course it's absurd to receive this apology from a person so low in the media hierarchy. You really ought to be getting it from the editors and reporters at the agenda-setting publications, such as *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

The main reason you were misinformed is that the major print media were too willing to take the White House at its word.

—RICK MERCIER
The Free Lance-Star
(Fredericksburg, Va.)
March 28, 2004

■ Film as politics

Remember when movies aimed to entertain? You could take the whole family, from grandma to the kids, and escape the quotidian for the silver screen, watching bigger-than-

life heroes engage in daring and admirable deeds. Or you could share a few G-rated laughs without worrying about offensive double-entendres or scatological references.

No more. Now, if Hollywood isn't drenching its audience in blood or titillating it with naked bodies, it is propagandizing us with left-wing paranoia or pushing a radical social agenda.

Michael Moore's new film "Fahrenheit 9-11," which won the top prize at the Cannes Film Festival last week, is a good example. The film claims to be a documentary,

but it doesn't document anything but Michael Moore's dementia.

Samuel Goldwyn, one of the giants of the movie industry, is reported to have said, "If you want to send a message, call Western Union."

But too many producers, directors and actors these days fail to heed his advice. Hollywood will start filling theaters once again when it stops churning out agitprop and starts producing entertainment.

—LINDA CHAVEZ
TownHall.com
May 26, 2004

Dramatically improve your libertarian persuasion skills!

The Advocates for Self-Government's "Art of Libertarian Persuasion" Seminar Is Coming To Your Area!

How would you like to become *far more effective* at communicating libertarian ideas? How would you like to give better speeches, conduct more memorable interviews, and hold more persuasive conversations with friends and family?

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You do *not* need to be a libertarian scholar. You do *not* need to be a "silver-tongued devil." You do *not* need long hours of practice.

What you need is to learn the tried-and-true persuasion secrets of master libertarian communicators. And that's exactly what

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- ◆ The secret to making people hungry for libertarian ideas.
- ◆ How to open closed minds. (It *can* be done.)
- ◆ The key to effective speeches — that even the experts frequently forget.
- ◆ *And much more.*

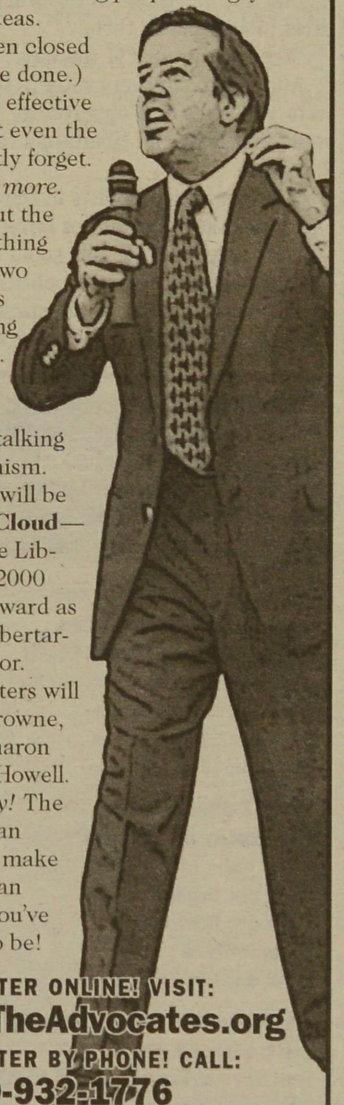
You'll walk out the door with everything you need to be two or three times as effective at sharing libertarian ideas. Your confidence will soar. You'll feel great when talking about libertarianism.

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AFFILIATE NEWS

Candidates, property rights, ballot access and \$55 floppies

■ ARIZONA

Full slate of candidates up for Congress

Arizona Libertarians recently filed a full slate of candidates to run for U.S. Senate and House this November in the state, something not even the Democrats managed. At least one House district will not feature a Democrat candidate.

And they used a unique recruitment tool: Instead of relying on over-worked party officials to do the recruitment, a "group of dedicated freedom activists ... formed their own organization specifically for this purpose," said Jason Auvenshine, state LP chairman.

The group, known as "the L Factor," recruited many of the candidates, and the LP's primary contribution was maintaining statewide ballot access for the party and getting voter lists from the state, Auvenshine said.

"We created an environment where activists were encouraged to form their own organizations to accomplish political goals, rather than relying on ... those with official titles to accomplish them.

"Then we got out of the way."

And it worked: Every voter in the state will have the opportunity to vote for at least one Libertarian this November.

"The hard core activists in the L-Factor are like a Special Ops force to the LP's regular army; this could be the greatest tag team in politics," said George Squyres, a Libertarian National Committee representative

from Arizona and second vice chair of the Arizona LP.

"Most importantly, Arizona Libertarians are once again focusing on the real job, and that is electing Libertarians to office," Squyres said.

"We can work inside or outside the party structure, depending on which the local activists prefer, and the bottom line is that Libertarian candidates are running for office."

And if some Arizonans don't like the way The L Factor does things, or the candidates they found, so much the better, Auvenshine said — noting that the goal is to get as many candidates as possible to run, increasing both the press that the LP gets and the likelihood that Libertarians will be elected to office.

For more information, go to www.AZLP.org or www.TheLFactor.org.

■ ARIZONA

Libertarian and Democrat vying for office

Voters in Coconino County, Ariz. — geographically the second-largest county in the USA — will get to choose between Libertarian and Democratic candidates for county supervisor in the November election. No Republicans have filed for any of the five seats up for election.

The county LP achieved ballot status last year under Arizona's election code, which requires each county to qualify for ballot status individually, even though the state party has had ballot status for a number of years.

On the ballot for the first time, the party determined that it would ensure a candidate for each of the five seats, and activists in the party stepped up for the challenge.

It was only after the filing deadline had passed that the Coconino LP discovered that the Republicans had failed to file any candidates for the supervisory races.

Republicans in Coconino are outnumbered not only by Democrats, but also by Independents. Libertarians have made strong gains in recent years, and hope to see those gains take a quantum leap forward in the upcoming election cycle.

Veteran campaign manager and former Mohave County LP chair David "Boss" Owens of Pennsylvania has already agreed to coordinate the campaigns of the five candidates.

Owens has said that a Libertarian-Democrat showdown in Coconino could be huge for the Arizona LP.

"Even if we don't win a single seat, the Libertarian presence in Co-

conino and its effect on the state party is guaranteed," he said. "And if we win, Arizonans will once again enjoy the sweet taste of freedom."

■ LOUISIANA

Third-party ballot access improved

A bill promoted in Louisiana by the Libertarian Party has been approved by the state House and — in amended form — by the Senate, so it must now go back to the House for final approval. If approved there, third parties will be named on the ballot next to their candidates' names, instead of having to run on name recognition alone.

Libertarians have been trying since 1991 to get such legislation approved — to be recognized on the ballot — and it looks like their goal is about to be realized.

The state House approved H.B. 1605 in May with a 61-34 vote. And the Senate approved it in June with a 35-2 vote.

Under it, any party with at least 1,000 registered voters in the state can be listed on the ballot next to its candidates' names.

Currently, any who aren't affiliated with the Republican or Democrat parties are barred from having their affiliation listed on the ballot — except in the presidential race. And even presidential candidates can only get their affiliation on the ballot if the party received 5 percent of the vote in the previous presidential race, or if 5 percent of the state's voters belong to the party.

Rep. William Daniel IV, a Democrat, championed the bill in the House. Under it, a party that has 1,000 registered voters and pays a one-time fee of \$1,000 can have candidates listed on the ballot. Such access will also be allowed to parties who get at least 5 percent of the vote in any statewide race.

Louisiana is a heavily Democrat state, with 1.58 million registered voters, and there are almost as many independent and minor party voters (566,000) as there are registered Republicans (662,000).

■ NEW JERSEY

They want \$55 for a floppy disk?

On June 3, the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey (LPCNJ) filed a civil lawsuit against Reina M. Murphy, the Edison Township clerk.

The suit — which as of mid-June had not yet been served upon Murphy — challenges the township's policy of charging \$55 for a 3.5-inch



■ The Texas ballot access drive ended May 24, with volunteers, candidates and state LP leaders turning in more than 80,000 signatures to the secretary of state's office. Only 45,540 valid signatures were required. (See story, page 3.) Kneeling (l to r), Gabriella and Elaina Coker-Garcia; First row (l to r), Linda Curtis, Art DiBianco, Anthony Garcia, Patrick Dixon, Wes Benedict and Michael Badnarik; Second row (l to r), Alan Anders, Roger Pope, William Howell, Jacob Witmer, Bryan Thompson and Andy Jacobs; Third row (l to r), Bill Redpath, James Werner and Rick McGinnis. (Photo by Laura Coker-Garcia)

computer disk when people request public records.

The suit asserts that \$55 is more than the actual cost of producing a computerized copy of the minutes, is "unreasonable, discourages access and violates the right of access to public records" under both the Open Public Records Act and the common law.

This situation arose when LPCNJ Secretary John Paff requested — on May 11, 2004 — some of the township council's recent meeting minutes.

Paff sent Murphy a blank computer disk and a \$2 check for return postage, asking that the minutes be saved to the disk.

In her May 20 response, Murphy returned Paff's disk and check and informed him that Edison's fee for making a diskette is \$55.

She also informed him that minutes are free of charge on the township's Web site. However, the site is about six months behind, and the minutes Paff requested aren't yet available.

■ NEW JERSEY

Nine Libertarians file for U.S. House seats

The New Jersey Libertarian Party has filed petitions with the Division of Elections for nine candidates seeking the office of U.S. Representative. The Libertarian Party led all other independent parties in the number of candidates filing for that office for the November general election.

Victor Kaplan, the newly-elected Chairman of the NJLP — and himself a candidate in the 5th Congressional District — said, "The Libertarian Party is dedicated to providing voters the opportunity to challenge the counter-productive policies and programs of the two dominant parties, by running U.S. House candidates who would revive and reinvigorate the American traditions of smaller, limited, less intrusive and less expensive government; personal liberty and responsibility; free markets; free trade with other nations; a strong national defense; and a non-interventionist foreign policy.

"We look forward to delivering our libertarian message to New Jersey voters in the upcoming campaign."

The Libertarian candidates for U.S. House of Representatives are Michael Matthews, 2nd Congressional District; Frank Orland, 3rd; Richard Edgar, 4th; Victor Kaplan, 5th; Virginia Flynn, 6th; Thomas Abrams, 7th; David Daly, 9th; Austin Lett, 11th; and Ken Chazotte, 12th District.

■ NORTH CAROLINA

Special election for U.S. House seat

In a special election July 20, North Carolina voters will replace U.S. Rep. Frank Ballance, a Democrat, who recently resigned for health reasons. Tom Eisenmenger of Roanoke Rapids is the LP's candidate to fill the remainder of the term.

Online Resources for LP Members

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

Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

Click on: State Parties

Click on: [Your state]

■ Find contact info for the National Committee

Visit: www.LP.org

Click on: Organization

Click on: National Committee

Click on: LNC Directory

■ Renew your membership

Visit: www.LP.org

See: Special Features (left side)

Click on: Renew

The executive committee of the LP of North Carolina selected Eisenmenger to run for the seat, because there are no Congressional District Committees in the state, said Sean Haugh, LPNC executive director.

The election will coincide with the state's primary election, and the winner will remain in the position through the end of the year. Ballance's term was set to end this year, so on Election Day, Nov. 2, voters will vote again for the seat.

Eisenmenger was the Libertarian candidate for state Senate, District 4, in 2002, Haugh said.

Five Democrats and two Republicans are seeking their parties' nominations for the congressional seat in the special election.

■ OHIO

LP opposes attack on property rights

Columbus, Ohio is preparing to pass the most restrictive smoking ban in the nation, and the Libertarian Party is standing with the restaurant and tavern owners in the state to oppose the move.

The ordinance would ban smoking indoors except in private residences and some hotel rooms.

Outdoor smoking would also be banned within 20 feet of a restricted area, meaning that even restaurant patios would be off limits for smokers.

A group of Libertarians attended public hearings on June 16 and 23 to protest the proposed ban and support business owners, reminding lawmakers and local residents that "this is a property rights issue, not a health issue," said Robert Butler, executive director of the Ohio LP.

The meetings are scheduled for 5:30 on each of the two days, and Cleveland radio talk show host — and former LP presidential candidate Gary Nolan — will speak at 5 p.m. rallies before each meeting.

"If this ordinance passes, busi-

nesses in Ohio will suffer yet another regulatory defeat," noted Jason Hallmark, chair of the state LP. "Smoking bans reduce income and jobs for restaurants, hotels, and taverns."

The LP opposes the so-called "Clean Air ordinance" for several reasons tied to property rights.

"First, a business owner has a right to allow legal activity in his place of business, and smoking is not against the law," Butler said.

"Second, there are plenty of restaurants whose owners have voluntarily banned smoking. Non-smokers should support these businesses, not try to force others to conform."

Butler emphasized the fact that the Libertarian Party is the only political party to support the business owners on this issue.

■ PENNSYLVANIA

'Freeze taxes, spending and borrowing'

Russ Diamond, the Libertarian candidate for the Pennsylvania General Assembly's 101st District, has released an agenda for his first two years in office.

The agenda, "Prosperity for Pennsylvanians," proposes freezing taxes, expenditures and borrowing for five years; requiring a supermajority vote for government fiscal policy; and calling for an emphasis on voter referenda.

Diamond also calls for eliminating property taxes in the state through a revenue-neutral sales tax initiative, repealing tax incentive plans that punish existing businesses, opening new doors to health plan savings for small businesses, repealing unfair vehicle emissions testing policies, and proposals to open the legislative and election processes to further public access and scrutiny.

"In the last 30 years, wages in Pennsylvania have remained relatively flat while the size and scope of government has roughly dou-

bled," said Diamond.

"I don't think taxpayers are getting twice as much service from the government, and neither do the majority of voters in this district. I haven't spoken to a single person who sees any justification for paying even more taxes."

The entire text of Prosperity for Pennsylvanians can be found on Diamond's website, www.russdiamond.org.

■ WASHINGTON

Working to end the sales tax on food

Asserting that sales tax on food and other essential items hurts the state's working poor and middle class, the Libertarian Party of Washington State is trying to get an initiative on the ballot this November to eliminate the tax on all prepared foods in the state, thereby saving close to \$500 million a year in sales tax — about 2 percent of the state's \$26 billion budget.

Most grocery items are already tax exempt in Washington, but many prepared foods like salads, sandwiches, nutritional supplements and vitamins are still taxed, according to the state LP Web site, www.LPWS.org.

To get the initiative — known as I-881 or the Affordable Food initiative — to the ballot, the LP must collect almost 198,000 petition signatures and present them to the secretary of state's office in Olympia by July 2.

The petition is available online, so it's impossible to know how many of the forms have been printed out or signed, said state LP chair Larey McLaren.

"The drive is going well, but it's hard to say how well," McLaren said. "We got a late start and we're on a tight schedule, since we have only about a month before we have to turn in the signatures, but we're building momentum all the time and the process is going smoothly."

About 70 or 80 volunteers from the Libertarian Party have approached business owners, trying to place petitions at stores and restaurants, said John Mills, communications director for the state LP.

"Our goal is not only to get this initiative off the ground, but to get volunteer petitioners who could go back over and over again to the same businesses for other initiatives over time," Mills said. "Instead of going door to door, the plan is to build a network of volunteers and businesses, to ease the petitioning process in the future."

Volunteers initially approached trade unions about sponsoring the initiative, but they've "had better success going directly to restaurant owners and other businesses," Mills said.

"We've gotten uniformly positive results from them. If we can find a way to get directly to small business owners, we get good results."

A particularly cooperative group of business owners is "the health food industry, which views any tax on food — on their product — as a tax on medicine," he said. "So that

trade industry has been very responsive to this initiative."

The quest to lower taxes by eliminating the sales tax on all food — not just groceries — has shown people around the state "that the LP is serious about cutting taxes, and about making food more affordable," Mills said.

■ WYOMING

State's first Libertarian primary likely

Two Libertarians in Casper, Wyoming, have filed to run for the state House of Representatives in District 57 — and the district has only five registered Libertarians.

Hubert Townsend and Tim DeLany, the two candidates, said they have never met, and each was surprised to find that their candidacies could lead to the first Libertarian primary in Wyoming history.

The LP has major party status in Wyoming because the Libertarian secretary of state candidate, Marie Brossman, got 18 percent of the vote in 2002.

To gain major party status,

any party must have a statewide candidate who gains at least 10 percent of the vote.

While Townsend said he plans to approach all Libertarians in the district and seek their votes, DeLany said he entered solely to ensure that the LP was on the ballot.

"I hadn't really planned to do a lot of campaigning," DeLany was quoted by the Associated Press as saying. "Basically I was just doing it to have somebody out there."

But either of them could drum up extra support in the district; people can both register to vote and change their party affiliation, while at the polls for the primary, so a strong Libertarian campaign — and the primary — could lead to added interest in the party in that district.

Former Wyoming State LP Chair and frequent candidate Dave Dawson said having a Libertarian primary might not be a good move for the party — since it would mean the "Party of Principle" is taking state money to run a political campaign, just like the Democrats and Republicans.

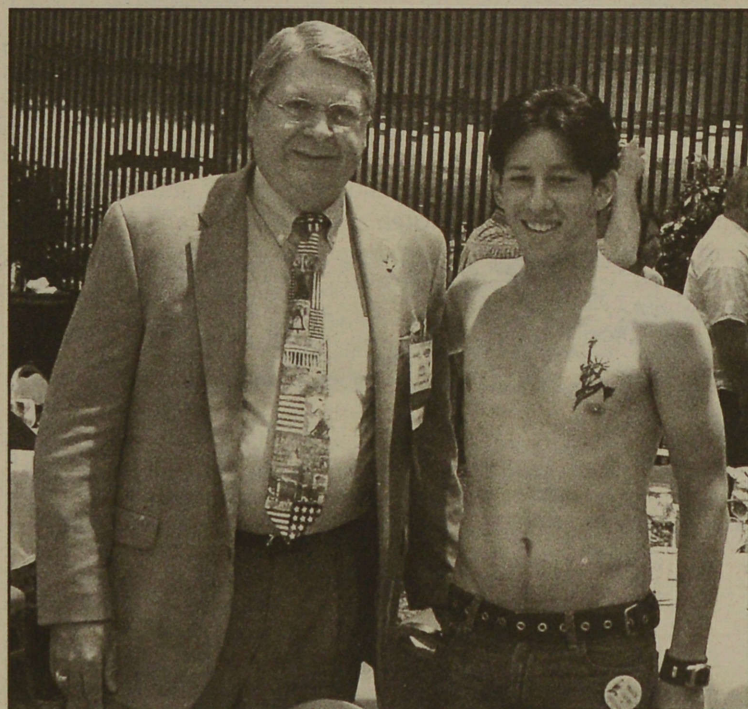
PETITIONERS NEEDED for LP BALLOT DRIVES

The Libertarian Party currently has petition drives underway in several states. While it is our goal to get as many volunteer signatures as possible during these ballot drives, many signatures need to be gathered by paid petitioners. We are looking for paid petitioners to petition now or soon in the following states:

Alabama
Connecticut
DC
Kentucky
Maine
New York
North Dakota
Oklahoma
Pennsylvania

Good petitioners who are willing to work hard can earn \$1,500 per week or more. Earn good money and advance the LP at the same time.

Interested? Please e-mail Bill Redpath, Ballot Access Coordinator, at wredpath@his.com. Put "petitioning" in the subject line. He will respond to you as soon as possible. Thank you.



■ Jerry Cameron, left, a candidate for the Florida House, had just finished a speech in his state when Jeff Sacks, 18, of St. Augustine, Fla., lifted his shirt to show the LP's Statue of Liberty logo tattooed over his heart. The pair met up again at the convention in Atlanta.

THE REVIEW

Soundbite buffet

■ **Liberty A to Z: 872 Soundbites You Can Use Right Now**, by Harry Browne. Published by The Advocates for Self-Government. Soft-cover, 186 pages, \$13.95. Available at www.TheAdvocates.org

Reviewed by George Getz
LP COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Harry Browne has finally written it all down — and it's about time. I, for one, have been waiting for this book for years. During the 1996 and 2000 Browne for president campaigns, my colleague Bill Winter and I used to marvel at all the clever quips and one-liners that used to roll off of Harry's tongue during radio and TV interviews.

"Immigration is the sincerest form of flattery." "If the government program you're proposing is really such a good investment, why is it that only the government is willing to make it?" "Every law is backed up by the threat of fine or imprisonment. If it weren't, it wouldn't be a law; it would be a suggestion."

Winter once told me, "All of the material that Harry is producing could be a huge gold mine for the party. I understand that he's started to keep it all in a sound bite file on his computer. When this campaign is over, we've got to get him to turn it all over — or else steal that computer."

Finally, Harry has turned it all over — 872 sound bites in all, numbered and categorized alphabetically by topic — and it was worth the wait.

I'm already nibbling away at the contents, trying to figure out which ones to cut and paste into my own sound bite file.

Every time the phone rings in my office, I know how Forrest Gump felt when he said, "Life is like a box of chocolates: You never know what you're going to get."

I never know who's going to be on the other end of the phone, or what they're going to want to talk about. So I have to be prepared — and there's no substitute for the issue-by-issue sound bite file.

I remember the first time I was asked the "aren't-you-Libertarians-really-just-a-bunch-of-anarchists" question by a belligerent right-wing radio host.

First I stumbled around a bit trying to define anarchy, then described what a Libertarian really is, and finally concluded that we Libertarians weren't really anarchists, (except, well, maybe a little.)

The following day I heard Harry answer the same question with aplomb, and the next time the question arose I was prepared with a little verbal jujitsu now known as soundbite No. 397:

"Some people say Libertarians want anarchy. But anarchy is what we have now. Our cities aren't safe, our schools are centers of violence and the politicians have turned the rule of law into a chaotic web of regulations and mandates. Libertarians want to restore order by removing the destabilizing influence of government."

The host meekly responded: "Oh."

Liberty A to Z is chock full of solid, quoteworthy arguments on almost every conceivable issue, from abortion to anti-trust laws, from balanced budget to the black market, from student loans to sweat shops. There's even a section labeled Omelets and Eggs, as in "social reformers say you can't make an omelet without breaking a few eggs — but somehow it's always someone else's eggs that get broken, and the omelet never materializes."

Perhaps the most useful section is the all-purpose answers known as "Fall-Back Positions." You know the feeling: Someone will argue in favor of funding a government program that "everyone knows" is working, and you don't know enough specifics to refute them.

In cases like these, you can unholster one of Harry's all-purpose answers, such as, "Whenever you turn anything over to the government, it is no longer a scientific, medical, commercial or ethical issue; it is now a political issue, to be decided by people like Teddy Kennedy, George Bush and Trent Lott. Is this what you want — to transform a serious political issue into a boondoggle?"

I can tell you that in eight years of using this answer on talk radio, no one's ever said: "Come to think of it, George, I am staunchly in favor of political boondoggles, and my listeners are, too!"

With a little practice, now any Libertarian who's running for office, giving a speech, doing media interviews or just trying to win over their friends can sound a little more like Harry Browne — and have fun doing it. Think of *Liberty A to Z* as a smorgasbord of 872 pro-freedom soundbites: browse through the entire menu, and fill up on the tastiest ones.



LP Youth Caucus formed

'To try to unite some of the younger Libertarians'

A study recently published in the "Political Psychology" journal revealed that young people don't think joining political parties or discussing politics is relevant to them. But there are exceptions, as shown by the formation of a National Libertarian Party Youth Caucus at the LP's convention in Atlanta over Memorial Day weekend.

"This group was formed to try to unite some of the younger Libertarians, especially to help our campus groups, to keep them from reinventing the wheel as they grow more active," said Trevor Southerland, who was elected chairman of the youth caucus.

There are approximately 150 active Libertarian Party groups on college and university campuses around the nation, but it has been difficult for the national LP office to help new college affiliates get started effectively and efficiently.

The new caucus should benefit such organization, said Andrew Bradley, campus coordinator at party headquarters in Washington, DC.

"The formation of this group is a sign that things are turning around

and that youth activity will be encouraged more than ever by the national party," Bradley noted.

"Every time a new campus organization opens up, it seems like they try to start over from scratch," Southerland said.

He should know: At 19, he is president of the campus Libertarian Party at UTC (the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga); chairman of the LP of Hamilton County, Tenn.; and editor of the Tennessee LP's newsletter, "Voice of Freedom."

"Often, former members have graduated without passing along what they've learned; in other cases, campus LP organizations don't communicate with each other," Bradley said.

"We hope to build the internal memory, and update it," Southerland noted. "Sometimes you feel like you're the only one out there, the only person who has ever tried to do something like this."

"We hope to be able to say, 'we tried this, and it worked really well,' or 'we tried that, and it didn't work at all,' to keep people from making the same mistakes others have been

making for 30 years."

For the purposes of the youth caucus, "youth will be self determined," he added. "We're doing this specifically for high school and college students, but if someone else wants to join, they are more than welcome."

Bradley, Southerland, former Libertarian National Committee chairman Jim Lark, and Sharon Harris of the Advocates for Self Government led a session — attended by 30-odd campus LP activists — that encouraged many to take part in the new caucus's formation, Southerland said.

Jeremy Linden of Michigan and Aaron Biterman of Wisconsin were elected vice chairmen, and Jeremy Robert Furbish of Minnesota was elected secretary.

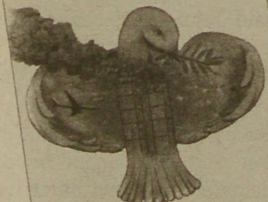
For more information on the caucus, contact Southerland at TrevSoutherland@aol.com or 423-580-4332.

The group will primarily be communicating via a Yahoo group. To receive information, send a message to LPYouthCaucus-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

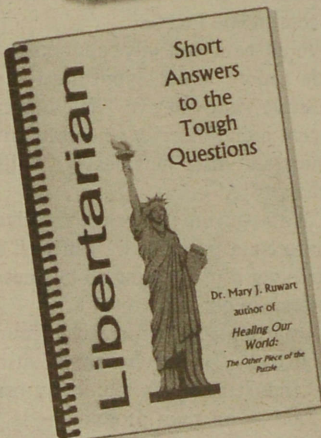
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Leadership Institute helps candidates make the grade

Continued from Page 1

was largely outside my experience as a retired businessman, writer and public relations consultant.

The most important thing is to have a good campaign plan, much like a business plan or a military strategy. Unfortunately, in politics as in business, people often complete the plan and forget about it.

Big mistake: The perfect plan, poorly executed, is less effective than any well-executed plan.

To develop a plan, you must analyze the candidate's strengths and weaknesses, weigh the external opportunities and threats, then allocate time and money to the needs, looking at where your resources will best be expended.

Speaking of resources, much time at the week-long class was devoted to fundraising. "You can't save the world if you can't pay the rent," one instructor said.

The most effective fund-raisers, the experts said, are the candidates themselves. That's why Bush and Kerry go to fund-raising dinners and make personal phone calls to potential donors.

Direct mail can also be effective, as can finance committees, whose members not only contribute directly but also pledge to raise money for the candidate.

A rough rule of thumb on fundraising is to devote time and money

as follows: 45 percent to personal solicitations, 20 percent to events, 20 percent to direct mail, 10 percent to the finance committee, and 5 percent to Internet.

Obviously, you'll need to monitor your results and adapt as necessary. If direct mail isn't working well, change the approach. Or devote more resources to events, if they're doing particularly well.

One key to a successful campaign is crafting a unifying message to motivate a majority to vote for your candidate. Sounds axiomatic, but it sure isn't easy. In fact, at least half of all candidates fail to do this. They're the losers.

The instructors recommended examining what your candidate and his opponent are going to say about their plans — and about each other — then looking for points of difference, particularly those that play to your candidate's strengths.

In Tom's case this was relatively easy. He is a management consultant and Oregon's finances are in a terrible mess. Raising taxes is not the solution. At the sixth highest in the nation, they are already plenty high.

Last year, Tom helped spearhead a referendum that rolled back a tax increase (Oregon Measure 28) passed by the Legislature and signed by the governor. He then went on to help derail another fiscally irresponsible

measure to increase taxes.

So his central message in this campaign will be about holding the line on taxes and teaching the state to live within a budget, while delivering services more efficiently.

Once a candidate develops a message, stay on that message, repeating it constantly to drive it through to the voters.

**ONCE A CANDIDATE
develops a message,
stay on that
message, repeating
it constantly to
drive it through to
the voters.**

—JOHN COX

The first communication vehicle most of us amateurs think of is TV. But that's not cost effective for a local race. A TV station blankets the whole area, so most of those ad dollars are wasted. The same goes for newspaper ads, unless it's one with neighborhood sections. What you're buying is a lot of waste circulation.

So that quickly leads us to direct mail. Again, not cheap, but at

least you can target your message by geography, profession or other demographics. If your candidate is a strong supporter of the Second Amendment, a mailing to gun owners might be in order. Where do you get this list? From local gun dealers. A list of those with concealed carry permits might be available from the state. How about sending the mailing to all the policemen living in the ZIP codes in your district?

Quite a bit of our class time was devoted to the recruitment and care of volunteers — no candidate can have too many. They can talk up your candidacy with their friends, be your telemarketers and help turn out the vote on Election Day. They can send out mailings, distribute literature and plant yard signs.

I'd always thought yard signs a waste of money. But the pros tell me that I was dead wrong: The importance of name recognition should not be underestimated. When the voter is going through his ballot and has to choose between a name he recognizes and one he doesn't, the one he recognizes wins.

The LI session on how to handle an attack on your candidate struck a chord with me. First, respond immediately. Letting an attack go unchallenged is tantamount to filing a guilty plea.

The responses to an attack fall into four categories: "I didn't do it,

and here's the proof"; "I did it, but it's not what you think. It's really ..."; "I did it, I'm sorry, and I'll never do it again"; and "I did it, but my opponent did something worse."

Never try to cover up a mistake. The punishment for the cover-up is often worse than the original crime. Ask Martha Stewart, who may go to prison, or Bill Clinton, only the second President ever impeached.

I'd like to say I've hit all the high points of the LI seminar, but I'd be lying. The take-away material is thicker than a Manhattan phone book. I haven't absorbed more than a fraction of it yet.

And I'd like to tell you that I'm now a full-fledged professional campaign manager, but I'm not. What I had was a survey course that only served to highlight my ignorance.

However, thanks to the Leadership Institute, I now have a better grasp of the challenges my son's campaign will face. And I have the names of a bunch of professionals that I might be able to call on for help. I can only hope that I'll know when to call.

There were three of us from Tom's team who took the course. There were no final exams, so I don't know how well we did. In a way, it's like Army basic training. It doesn't turn you into a veteran combat infantryman. That only happens when you come under fire.

2 parties
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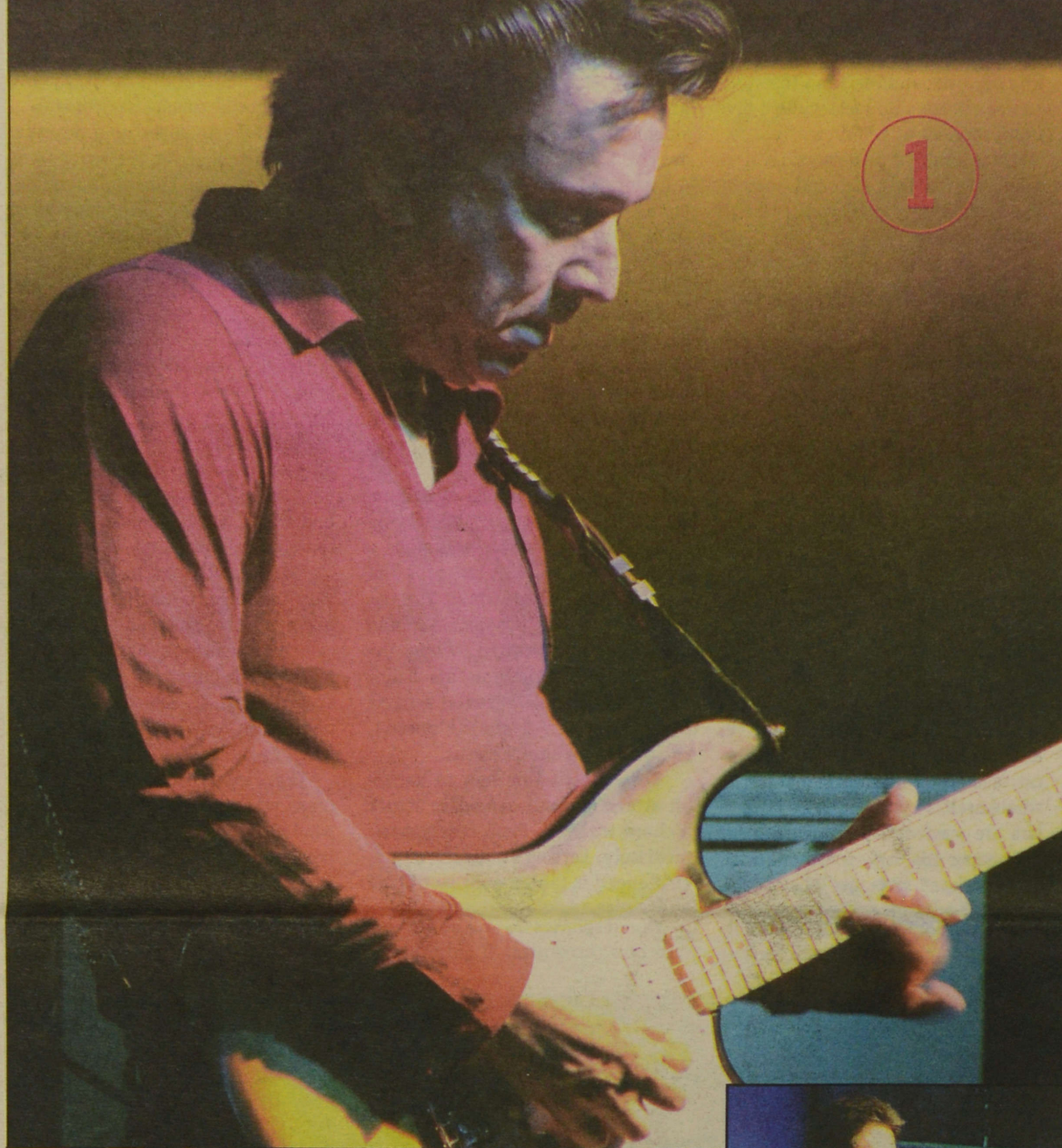
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Come see what the buzz is about!

The 2004 LP National Convention



■ (1) Guitarist Jimmie Vaughan wowed the crowd at Friday night's concert with his brand of Texas blues.

■ (2) David Nolan, founder of the Libertarian Party.

■ (3) Tennessee LP vice chair Heather Scott — a county commissioner in Wilson County, Tenn. — applauds with Michael Steele and Martina Slocumb during the debate.

■ (4) Noelle Stettner, longtime partner of former LP political director Ron Crickenberger, accepted the Jefferson Award for lifetime achievement, which Crickenberger received posthumously. He died in January of cancer. Accompanying Stettner are Ron's children, Jason and Anna Crickenberger.

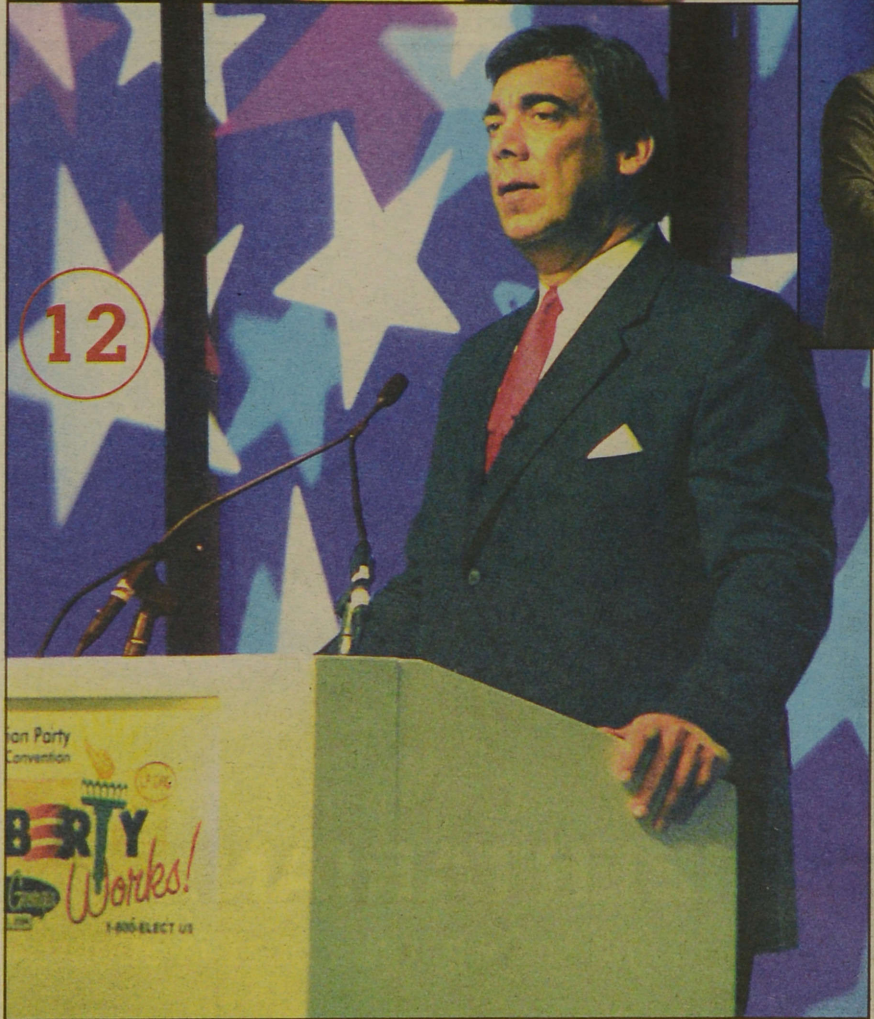
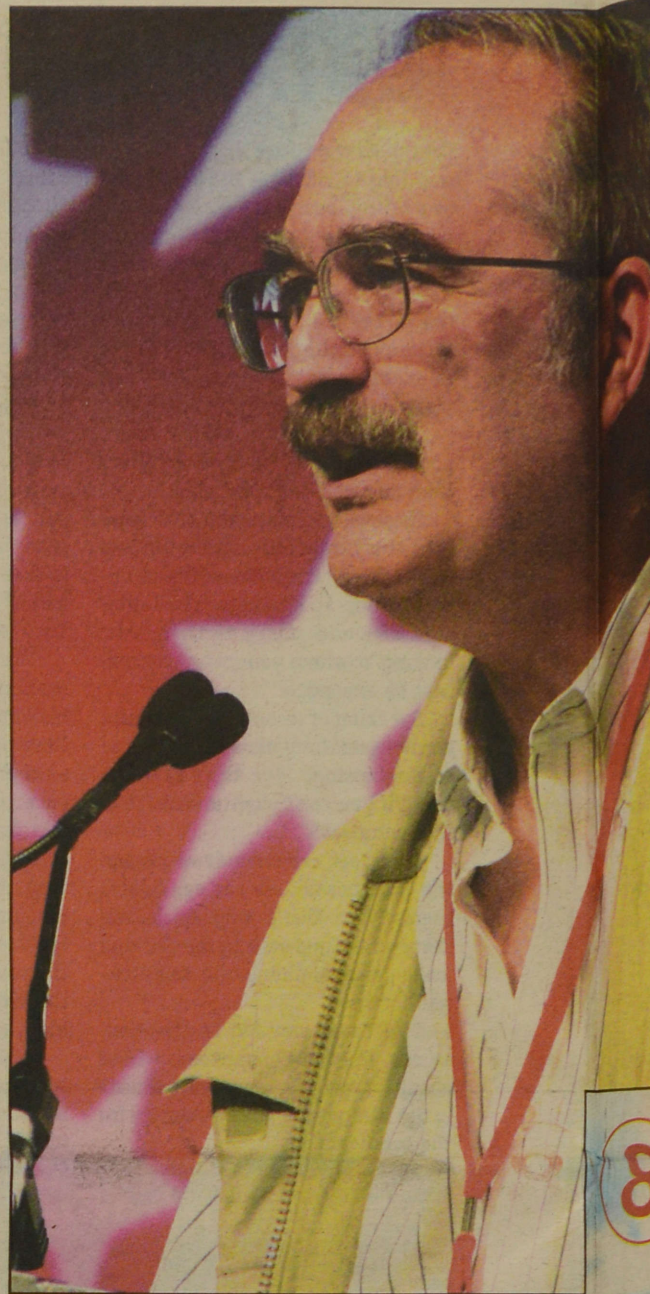
■ (5) Bob Sullentrup, the newly elected LNC secretary.

■ (6) After votes were tallied for the last time on Sunday, May 30, Aaron Russo took the microphone to concede to Michael Badnarik and to thank his supporters, stressing the importance of continuing to work as a unified party.

■ (7) Dean Cameron — actor, comedian, and creator of the "Bill of Rights, Security Edition" — was one of many speakers over the weekend.

■ (8) Following the vice presidential election, Badnarik joined victor Richard Campagna on stage, and they were "introduced" as the LP's 2004 candidates for president and vice president.

■ (9) Fred Childress — LNC Rep. for Region 5, 2002-2004 — and Marcia Strasel listen to Harry Browne at the Sunday night presidential banquet.



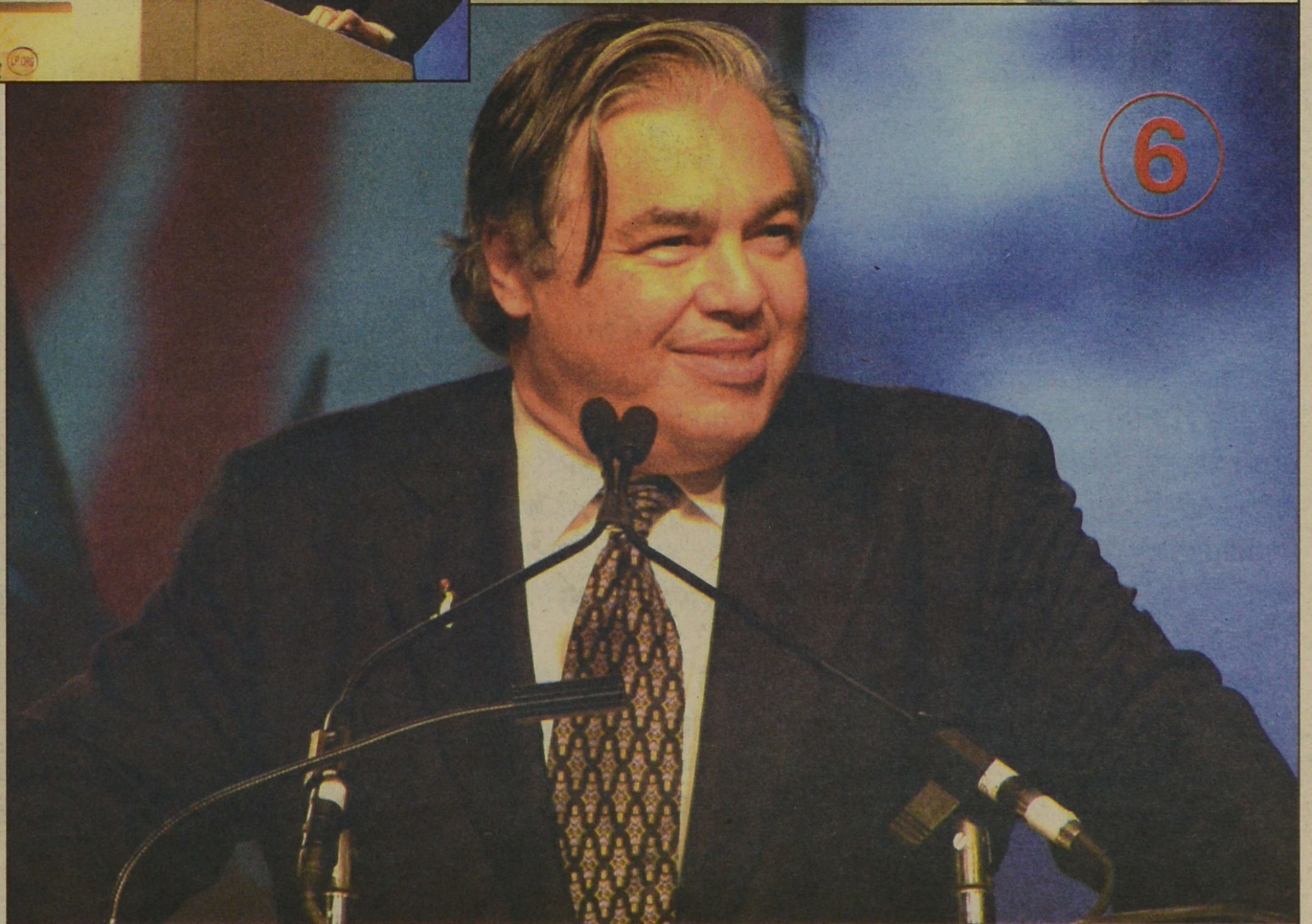
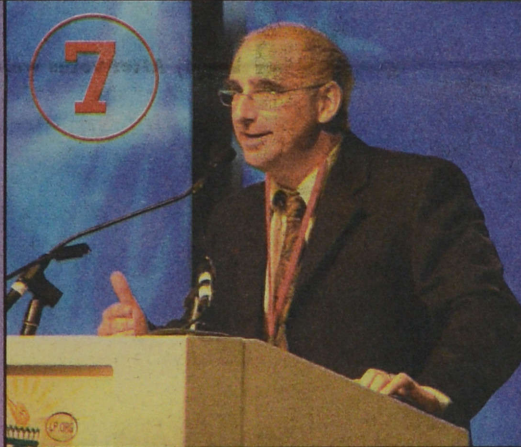


■ (10) Providing southern hospitality, four Azalea Trail Maids from Mobile, Ala., greeted attendees to the banquet.

■ (11) Outgoing LP chair Geoffrey Neale, gavel in hand, prepares to call a business session to order.

■ (12) Gary Nolan was the first of the top three candidates for the presidential nomination to be eliminated. He urged his supporters to back Badnarik, and many of them obviously did.

Photos by J. Daniel Cloud, LP News Editor



10

2004 LP Ballot Access: We're in the home stretch

Dear Libertarians,

THIS JUST IN: The Libertarian Party of Texas turned in 80,107 signatures to the Texas Secretary of State on May 24. Our position on the November ballot in Texas should be assured, as we needed 45,540 valid signatures of Texas registered voters. Your contributions made yet another LP success possible.

As of mid-June, we are waiting for certification in West Virginia, which we think will be forthcoming shortly. But we can't — and won't — rest on our laurels. We've got a lot of signatures to collect over the next two months for the following ballot drives:

Our Illinois ballot drive ends on June 21. We need 25,000 valid signatures by that date. We've got 25,000 in hand at this moment and are gearing up for the big 10,000-plus signature push for the final week of the drive. After that, we've got to immediately address and prepare for the petition deadlines that start coming fast and furiously when the calendar flips to August.

Here is what we face, in order

to make sure we're on the ballot in 50 states and DC.

8/2/04 — Pennsylvania.

The LPPA petition drive currently has over 6,000 signatures. We need to gather 25,697

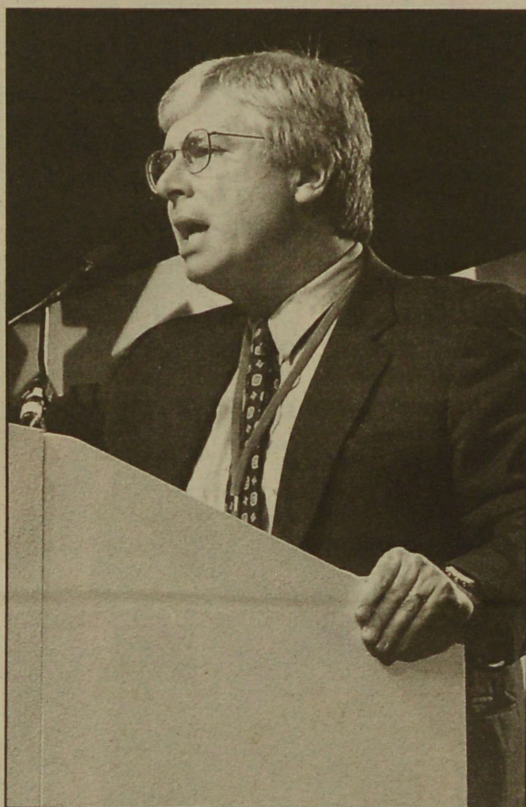
valid signatures by August 2. The LPPA doesn't currently have the funds to do this themselves. National needs to have another \$50,000 ready to make sure all LP candidates are on the ballot in Pennsylvania.

8/4/04 — Connecticut.

The LPCT needs 7,500 valid signatures and has \$6,000 in the bank. If National gives them a small financial boost, we'll have the Presidential ticket and a U.S. Senate candidate on the ballot.

8/9/04 — Maine. 4,000 valid signatures needed.

8/17/04 — District of



Columbia. 3,600 valid signatures needed.

8/17/04 — New York.

The LPNY will have to gather 15,000 valid signatures between early July and late August. National needs to be ready with \$20,000

to help out the LPNY.

8/26/04 — Kentucky. 5,000 valid signatures needed.

9/3/04 — North Dakota. 3,000 valid signatures needed.

9/6/04 — Alabama. To cap off the ballot drive, 5,000 valid signatures are due. We've got paid petitioners ready to go in Alabama. I want to start them ASAP, but we need more contributions to get them started.

Oklahoma and Ohio Update: Our Oklahoma

hearing will be later in June; we remain very hopeful that we will win the lawsuit, get on the ballot in Oklahoma and strike a blow for better ballot access laws in the future there.

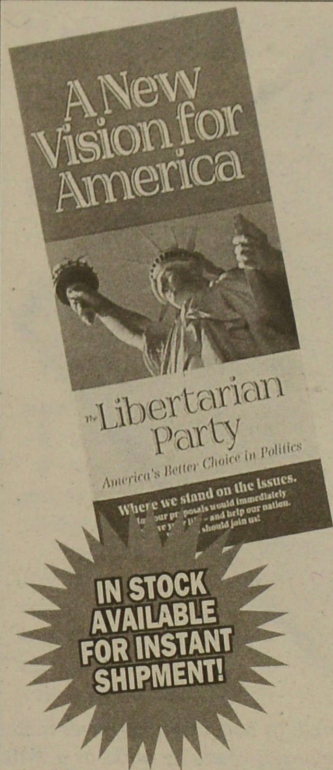
In Ohio, we are still awaiting our hearing in our lawsuit against the Secretary of State. However, we have to be prepared with \$10,000 to do an Independent presidential petition with 5,000 valid signatures in the unlikely event that we lose that lawsuit.

We're fighting outrageous ballot access laws — and succeeding in petition drives. But we can't keep this moving forward without your generous financial support.

Please send a check ASAP to the Libertarian Party Ballot Access Fund, 2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20037, or contribute to the Ballot Access Fund via the LP's Web site, www.LP.org. Thank you very much. With your help NOW, every American will have a Libertarian (or several) on their ballot in 2004.

Bill Redpath

William Redpath
LNC Ballot Access Coordinator



★★ They're back! ★★

Our popular "New Vision for America" brochures are back in stock and ready for immediate delivery, just in time for the 2004 election cycle.

To celebrate, we're offering a **20% DISCOUNT** and **FREE SHIPPING** if you buy them by the box. Normally, these brochures sell for 25 cents each, but you can get them for under **19 CENTS** each if you purchase them by the box in quantities of 650 or more. **That's just \$120 per box — plus we'll pay the shipping!**

"A New Vision for America" is a 24-page, full-color outreach brochure ... a prospecting tool that presents our vision for America in a positive, upbeat manner. And it's loaded with gorgeous photographs of Libertarians in action. "A New Vision for America" takes a warm, human approach — telling true stories that illustrate Libertarian principles. Instead of focusing on how bad the Republicans and Democrats are, we gently ask readers to imagine a better America — an America of prosperity, tolerance, and freedom.

This pocket-sized (8 1/2 by 4-inch) booklet fits easily in a pocket or purse, and is perfect for handing out at state fairs, politically homeless booths and other outreach events. Order your "New Vision for America" brochures today! Smaller orders are priced at **\$25 per 100**. (LP pays shipping.)

LP Literature & Books

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

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

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

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

Buttons

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

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

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Banners

_____	"LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18"h x 5'w)
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Tools for Campaigning

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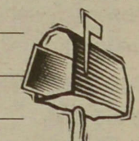
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THE FORUM

Amish: Libertarian role models?

The Amish don't vote, they don't solicit for political favors, they have no lobbying group or political agendas, they don't talk politics amongst their friends inside or outside of their communities, and they don't accept Social Security or any other form of government welfare.

If the Amish need medical attention, they seek financial help from within their own communities. They refuse to accept Medicare or Medicaid. They believe in only one law, the law of God as they interpret it through their version of the Bible. The Amish are indifferent to the state one way or the other.

But the Amish are also keenly aware that in the United States their way of life is protected because of the Constitutional rights guaranteed to them. They exercise those rights daily — and when those rights have been trod upon they will not hesitate to take the state to court.

In 1971, three Amish men from Wisconsin battled for their rights all the way to the Wisconsin Supreme Court after being arrested for refus-

ing to send their teenage children to school beyond the eighth grade. The state of Wisconsin requires all children to attend school at least to age 16, but this goes against Amish religious belief. The men won their case.

The state appealed to the U.S. Supreme court, and lost. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, the Supreme Court — in a 6-to-1 decision — upheld the ruling of the lower court, stating individual religious freedom supersedes state interest.

During the hearing, the 15-year-old daughter of one of the Amish fathers demanded that the court uphold her rights.

The Amish are not ignorant of the value of individual liberty; in fact, they are keenly aware of it, so much so that a teen-age Amish girl is willing to stand boldly before the U.S. Supreme Court and demand her rights be protected. The Amish are Libertarians in the true sense of the

word.

It has become apparent that Libertarians need a wake up call as to why we're Libertarians to begin with.

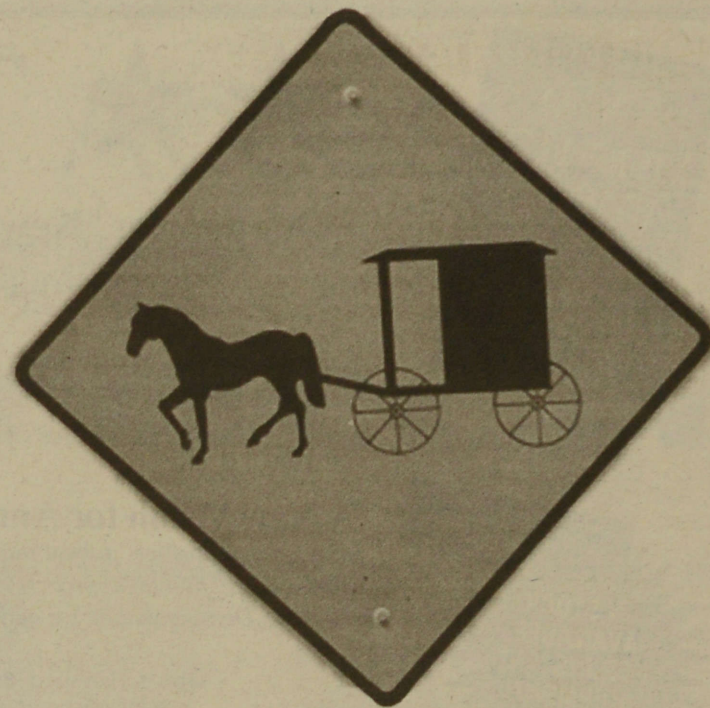
Unlike other religious groups — such as the Christian Coalition and Family First — and the secular Left, the Amish do not seek that the government play a greater role in regulating people's lives, whether it be drug prohibition or abortion.

The Amish have no desire to tell anyone outside their communities how to live, any more than they want others to tell them how to live.

While many Americans are calling for the government to control the lives of others — from smoking bans to Constitutional amendments banning gay marriage — the Amish go about their business just as they have for the past 400 years in America, as true defenders and exemplars of individual liberty.

The Amish are a model by which other Americans should live, including those who claim to be religious, those who claim to be secular Left-

By Mario Santorelli



ists, and — increasingly — those who call themselves Libertarians.

■ About the author: Mario San-

torelli (a nom de plume) lives in Chicago, Ill., where he works as a writer and editor, including contributing articles to PoliticallyRight.com.

End welfare?

It is easy to be disgusted with people who use children as a cash crop, who receive larger welfare checks for having more children.

However, there is another category of people who collect welfare — those who draw an hourly rate near minimum wage and don't earn enough to meet their basic needs, much less luxuries.

For these people, welfare is a necessity, given our current system of government. Getting rid of welfare would further decrease the quality of life for the working people on welfare. It would also cause wages to go all the way down to minimum wage — and in some cases lower — with little chance of increase because the supply of workers would be increased.

Wages are set by the laws of supply and demand. The number of available workers directly translates into the amount of money an employer has to pay. Employers pay as little as possible, and employees usually try to get the highest wage possible.

If there is a high supply of people to do the work, the employees are competing and thus are forced to lower their standards (accept lower wages) if they want to work. If there is a low supply of workers, the employers are forced to compete for laborers, and thus are forced to increase their wages.

The minimum wage law is one of those laws that either has no impact or causes more harm than good. If we imagine the minimum wage is set at \$6 but employers cannot get workers unless they pay \$7, the minimum wage law is ineffective. If the minimum wage is set at \$6, but people are willing/desperate to work

at \$5.00, employers will cut back on labor (thus keeping jobs away from people who need them) or find ways to work around the minimum wage, such as unpaid overtime.

So, what happens if we were to get rid of welfare altogether? The people working two jobs would need a third job. There would suddenly increase the supply of workers. People would have to work longer and harder for a wage that is even lower.

What is the solution? Every Libertarian wants to get rid of welfare, but in my opinion, this type of welfare should be one of the last government programs to get rid of. The only way to guarantee a decent quality of life for those who work is to decrease the supply of workers.

We all pay about 50 percent of our income in taxes.

Taking that statistic and applying it to the typical nuclear family means that one parent is working to make the house payment, buy food and pay bills, while the other parent works solely to pay taxes.

Heaven help the single parent! If one parent's income were used for living expenses, and the other parent did not have to work to give money to the government, the parents could choose to work less. And as the supply of workers diminished, the remaining workers would be in a better bargaining position for the available jobs.

Wages would go up, allowing one person to generate more purchasing power for the family than the current system, which has both parents

See WELFARE Page 17

Picture yourself...in LP News!

Did you know that a majority of the photographs included in this newspaper are submitted by our readers? Despite this wonderful help, we frequently find ourselves scratching our heads because we often cannot use the photos submitted.



We need your help! We want to vary our content, and put the best face on the LP, our members and Libertarian activities!

Help us picture you! To stand a good chance of getting your photos in *LP News* — where they'll be seen by Libertarians nationwide — follow a few simple guidelines.

✓ **HI-RES:** If you send a photo via e-mail, make sure it is a high-resolution image — meaning at least 300 dpi. We cannot use images found on a website.

✓ **SEND THE ORIGINAL:** When sending a digital photo, please send the original image. Do not edit it. That way, we can crop, adjust color, or otherwise modify the image for the specific spot where we need it.

✓ **CLOSE-UP AND PERSONAL:** When taking pictures of speakers or other events, always remember: Closer is better. Don't be afraid to stand in front of the crowd for a minute or two and get a good picture.

✓ **ACTION SHOTS:** Even if it's only one person, get photos of that person doing something — even laughing. If you've got a group, show them interacting, working on a project, talking to each other — anything other than lining them up and having them smile for the camera or sitting around a half-cleared dining table looking at each other over the scattered remains of a dinner meeting.

✓ **FOCUS:** If you have an activity with 10 or 15 people, don't try to work all of them into the photo unless it's absolutely necessary. Focus on people doing things and on the people who are important to the story you're trying to tell.

✓ **SEND IN A VARIETY:** If you take 12 photos and don't know which one is appropriate, feel free to send them all.

✓ **SEND IN AS MANY AS YOU CAN:** We can always use pictures!

Questions? Contact Daniel Cloud at (202) 333-0008, ext. 226, or by e-mail at editor@hq.lp.org.

THE VOLUNTEER

Clean up your act with Liberty tweezers!

These are the 10 bylaws of the Liberty Tweezers. All who take this pledge must comply voluntarily; to do otherwise would be un-libertarian.

There is nothing wrong with cleaning up your act or dressing better to excel in business, or in politics. Most of us would get dressed up for financial gain, but when it comes to dressing up for freedom some of us fall short.

What is the biggest threat to the Libertarian Party? Interlocking relationships? Sabotage from the outside? No, it's ear hair, nose hair, bad hair cuts and other image-destroying characteristics.

By Mark Selzer

■ 1 — I will ensure that I have no visible nose hairs.

You could be the most brilliant, persuasive Libertarian, but if you ignore this part of the "pledge," the only thing people will remember is that you had hairs sticking out of your nose.

■ 2 — I will cut my hair in such a way that the majority of people will not laugh at me behind my back.

I will find out where the Super-cuts is in my neighborhood. I will

go there and have my hair cut, not in the stupid way I think looks best, but in whatever way a professional hairstylist thinks is best. (P.S.: Your mom is not a professional hair stylist.)

I will also ask the stylist to get rid of my ear-hair if present. Do so even if you think you do not have ear-hair; it creeps up on you as you get older.

If you're going bald, you aren't fooling anyone. We know you are bald, so get rid of that comb-over. It looks really stupid. Balding can look dignified if you don't try to hide it.

■ 3 — I will not go on public access television in a suit that looks like a hand-me-down from my older brother, who gave it to me when he went off to college. Nor will I wear my favorite Libertarian T-shirt. Instead, I will wear appropriate, professional business attire.

■ 4 — I will not show up at candidate's forums with a western or Hawaiian-style shirt that is too small and tucked into my old jeans in an attempt to try to look neat for a change. I recognize that this merely just ends up accentuating my ample beer-and-junk-food gut.

■ 5 — I will try not to look or sound scary. I will not wear scary militant-looking or -sounding T-shirts,

the ones that say "Kill a Statist for Christ" or "I Love My Gun Twice a Day." While talking to people, I will try to smile more and scowl less. I will not insult people who don't "get it" fast enough.

■ 6 — I will not wear black socks with shorts to outreach events.

■ 7 — If I have Libertarian stickers or decals on my car I will try to keep it clean.

It makes us all look bad if you don't. Layers of dirt, bird droppings and mud splatters do not go well with your Libertarian stuff. Also try not to put really scary stickers about shooting people who mess with your car, or shooting D.E.A., I.R.S., F.B.I., A.T.F., or e.t.c. agents next to your Libertarian bumper stickers. People will be scared of both you and us.

■ 8 — I will try to keep my clothes free of grease, dirt, chocolate cake, beer, and all other mystery stains.

■ 9 — If my look is not mainstream (of course you are still welcome here), I will try to make sure my green mohawk is straight and my trans-gender funfur pink bikini is clean and the spikes on my purple leather dog collar are polished and sharp.

■ 10 — I realize that my logic, rea-

son, and clever arguments are not nearly as important as the non-verbal messages I send. I will be nice, even if people don't agree with me. No one will remember any of my great, brilliant arguments 10 minutes after they talk to me if I'm rude. All they will remember — like it or not — is whether I was a nice, pleasant, well-groomed, inviting, friendly person to be around.

these weird alien ideas about how the government is evil.

This is a strange idea to

most

people who have

been propagandized their

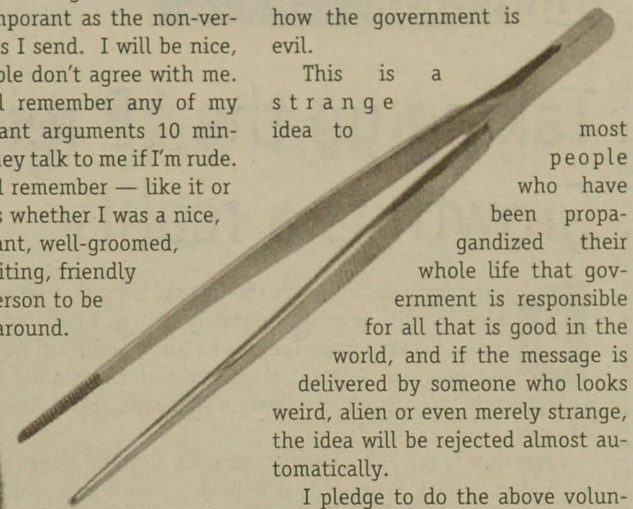
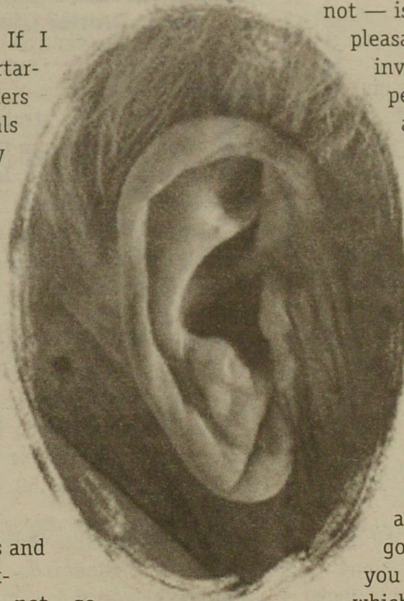
whole life that government is responsible

for all that is good in the world, and if the message is

delivered by someone who looks weird, alien or even merely strange, the idea will be rejected almost automatically.

I pledge to do the above voluntarily and to the best of my ability and to ask for help if I am clueless.

■ **About the author:** Mark Selzer, southern vice chair of the California LP, hosts a public access TV show, *The Libertarian Alternative*. The show currently airs weekly throughout California and in Minnesota, will soon be appearing in New York, and is available on videotape for other LP affiliates who want to get it aired on their local TV stations.



Remember, you are the first Libertarian most people you encounter will ever meet. Each little thing about you that may be a little weird or scruffy is going to be noticed once you open your big mouth — which hopefully will have recently been freshened with mouthwash or mints — and start spouting

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A flamboyant WWF wrestling star is elected governor of Minnesota.

Texas legislators skip town to avoid a vote on redistricting.

California recalls a recently re-elected governor and replaces him with a Hollywood action hero.

Hanging chads create chaos!

WHAT'S NEXT?

the Third Revolution

A NOVEL OF POLITICAL SUSPENSE

the Third Revolution



Anthony F. Lewis

Ten Mile Press

www.anthonylewisbooks.com

Continued from Page 16

working and being forced to forfeit 50 percent of their money.

"But we can't completely get rid of taxes if we are still going to have a welfare system," the naysayers may say.

I say, you are right. There needs to be a gradual reduction in welfare benefits paid out while there is an abrupt end to some government spending. Also, we still need the minimum wage in place during this change.

But while individual welfare needs to be gradually phased out, two of the three types of corporate welfare need to be eliminated immediately. The first is the government payout. Writing huge checks to corporations like McDonald's or ADM has got to end now.

The second is tax breaks: Corporations rarely get breaks based on merit or need. The corporations that get the biggest breaks are those that lobby the best.

Yes, I know the Libertarian Party wants to get rid of the IRS, but we have to be realistic. That will never

happen until we have a majority in power. Therefore, equality must come before elimination.

The third kind of corporate welfare is the kind I have been talking about in this essay. Since taxpayers are being forced to supplement the income of the minimum wage workers, we are picking up a part of the labor expense paid by big corporations like McDonald's and Wal-Mart. Unfortunately, this type of corporate welfare will be a necessity for some time to come.

What can the Libertarian Party do about this triple dipping?

Hatred of corporate welfare is almost universal, with the exceptions being officers of large corporations and politicians. Politicians may provide lip service denouncing corporate welfare, but we all know they do not mean it.

The Libertarian Party needs to compile a list of all the worst offenders and the kind of welfare they receive, then publish it. Each corporation would be listed with four columns. The first column would be titled "direct payouts." The second

column would be the "tax-break column." This is the difference between the tax they paid and the tax they would have paid if they paid their fair share. The third column would be titled "welfare collected by their employees." The fourth column would be campaign contributions.

This breakdown would show how money is taken from the little people, given to the corporations, then given back to the politicians for their campaign expenses.

If we formulated such a list, we would have an easily comprehensible format of information that would provide the Libertarian with some powerful ammunition during election time.

■ **About the author:** David Helfter was vice chair of the North Dakota LP. He passed away this spring, after being active in the party for several years — including a run for city commission in Fargo. "He was a great person to have on our team, and we miss him," said state LP chair Keith Hanson, also of Fargo.

THE CHAIR

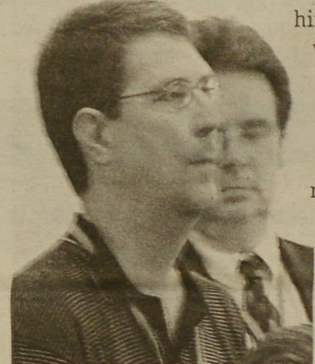
Taking up the LP reins: Growth is a reality

During my campaign over the last six months, I set as my mission to do several things very clearly. I traveled to the states, seeking opportunities to listen and learn from you the members. At many state conventions I did not even have speaking opportunities, merely a chance to spend time with our members.

I specifically ran this campaign without a catchy slogan or jingle — though I remain a fan of that BoDean's song. I also avoided the seeming libertarian mantra, "if you can say it in one page, three pages will be better." No trees died for my campaign. This was critical because I never felt that I was here because I had so much to say. I offered myself as a candidate because I had the knowledge, the time, and the willingness to serve. To help each and every one of us, and our organizations be better.

Oddly enough I now find that I must say something in this column.

A great deal of credit for my campaign's success is due to my campaign manager, David Owens of the Pennsylvania LP. I urge anyone seeking campaign advice and counsel to look



By Michael Dixon

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

him up. David kept me focused when I was distracted and motivated when I was distressed. More than anything, he orchestrated a great convention experience for me, and I hope for those of you who came along for the ride.

For those still wondering about the baseballs: I owe that piece of work, and the focus it created for all of us, to Astrid Campos of Image Design Communications in Phoenix. I don't think that Astrid, and her husband Andre, had ever done work for a candidate, but that didn't keep them from jumping in and creating a look and feel for my efforts that was exactly what I needed.

So, now that it is the morning after, what should we do next? Here

are a few themes that I consider important for the next few years:

■ **Growth is a reality.** As I campaigned, visiting conventions and local meetings, I was continuously struck by the strength and growth that our local organizations are experiencing. New attendants (and new excitement of the old) are the rule, rather than the exception. Candidate counts are up for this fall and more of the candidates are doing politics instead of being merely paper candidates.

■ **More people doing less.** Because we are seeing more people in many of our organizations, we are seeing a broader sharing of the load. We must continue this. Only when each of us is focused on one job (instead of wearing many hats) can we do that job well, and allow growth and involvement opportunities for the others among us.

■ **Teamwork and fun first.** I remain convinced — and my experience of only a few weeks on the job reinforces the fact — that our first goal is to build working teams at all levels. Not teams that function with military precision and execution, but good old fashioned groups of people having fun.

It is not enough to have a great candidate and an office ripe for our message. That candidate and the local LP affiliate must be able to organize a great number of people who can get out of their homes and motivate an even greater number of voters to make a real difference on election day. Nothing succeeds like the motivational effect of people enjoying themselves.

■ **Realism in our expectation.** Finally, in this campaign year it is vital that we remember one fact: It is always better to under-promise and over-deliver. I have experienced some very painful election nights in the LP. Nights when the tone was set by rampant expectation and where the emotion was crushed by the early returns. In the wake of those experiences, we lose good people, time and motivation.

As the leaders, the organizers of events, and the creators of expectations, let us all remember what we said as a guiding principle in our strategic plan. Success requires sufficient resources of all kinds. One of those resources is motivation.

Do not let unrealistic expectations destroy our greatest resource, our motivated people.

Solving the problem (or crime) of buying drugs from Canada

By J. Daniel Cloud
LP NEWS EDITOR

The average cost of a month's supply of the stroke prevention drug Ticlid in the United States is \$112.92. In Canada, it's \$52.35 (U.S. dollars).

Zocor, a treatment for high cholesterol, costs \$106.84 per month in the United States. Canada's cost: \$43.97 (U.S. dollars).

Antidepressant Zoloft costs \$195.07 on average in the United States. Cost in Canada: \$124.41.

Even Prilosec, a drug for heartburn, costs almost double here for a month's supply: \$105.50, compared to \$53.51.

With prices like these, it's no wonder that thousands of Americans break federal law by crossing the national border to import their prescription drugs. Everyone knows re-importation happens, and the U.S. federal government has done little to stop it for many years.

That is changing. The federal Drug Enforcement Agency and Food and Drug Administration have joined forces to try to stop such small-scale black market importation of drugs.

As with the other Drug War, though, the feds are discovering that it's a losing battle; people are thronging across the Canadian (or sometimes Mexican) border, getting a doctor on the other side to issue a prescription for the drugs they've already been prescribed in the States, and coming back home — having saved hundreds of dollars for their trouble.

Why is it illegal to re-import drugs to the United States that were made here and sold more cheaply to foreign countries than to American distributors?

For one thing, the FDA claims that drugs purchased in other countries may not be safe. They could be counterfeits — fake drugs packaged in such a way that they appear similar to the real thing available in the United States.

But why would drugs available from Canadian pharmacies be any more likely to be counterfeit than those available at their stateside counterparts? People aren't flocking north to buy prescription drugs in back alleys, but from recognized pharmacies who issue the drugs upon prescription.

A more likely excuse for not allowing Americans to buy drugs elsewhere is that drug companies want to protect their profits, and some (or many) legislators are willing to

Libertarian SOLUTIONS

help them in that effort. More on that later.

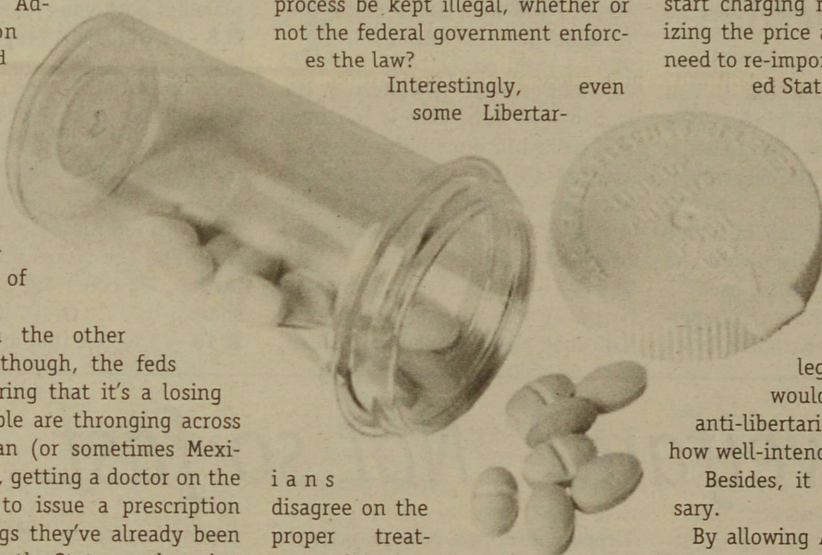
For several years Congress has flirted with the idea of allowing Americans to re-import drugs.

But it's not legal yet, even though some government officials here have avidly supported allowing their constituents to buy prescription drugs elsewhere.

Congressman Bernard Sanders of Vermont actually provided instructions on his Web site for constituents who want to drive to Canada to get their medicine, and others have done similarly — including officials in Minnesota and Wisconsin, who went so far as to give directions to specific pharmacies in Canada where Americans can buy cheap, reliable prescription drugs.

The question is, should such purchases be legalized — or should the process be kept illegal, whether or not the federal government enforces the law?

Interestingly, even some Libertar-



ians disagree on the proper treatment of the issue.

For example, Doug Bandow of the Cato Institute argued in a July 2003 opinion piece for the National Review Online that "re-importation is an all-around bad idea," in part because it "would effectively apply foreign price controls on the American market."

The main reason drug prices are so high in the United States is that the cost of research and development is generally passed on to American consumers, while the markets overseas reap the benefits of the drugs without having to pay for the creation process. We are penalized for living in the same country where the drugs are produced.

Some say legalizing re-importation of drugs would force American pharmaceutical companies to lower U.S. drug costs to the artificially low prices in foreign countries — whose governments impose price controls.

Bandow quoted U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) as saying: "It is not my intention to have the American people go to another country

for their drugs. It is my intention to force the pharmaceutical industry to re-price their drugs here in the United States."

And Congressman Sanders opined that "it is likely that the day after re-importation passes, the pharmaceutical industry will lower their prices in the United States to the same level that they sell their products worldwide."

Another frequent complaint is that allowing Americans to buy prescription drugs from Canada or other countries would hurt the pharmaceutical companies' bottom lines: If Americans have the opportunity to circumvent the price differential, the drug companies will earn less.

Opponents of re-importation act as though this is a case of the law of unintended consequences: They're simply trying to save money, not to lower drug company revenues.

Actually, however, this is the intended consequence. If the drug companies make less money from the sale of drugs at higher American prices, they will eventually have to start charging more abroad, equalizing the price and eliminating the need to re-import drugs to the United States.

Some legislators — like the above-mentioned Dorgan and Sanders — want to force the drug companies to sell their drugs more cheaply, but legislating price caps would be a distinctly anti-libertarian move, no matter how well-intended.

Besides, it would be unnecessary.

By allowing Americans to travel across national borders to get their medicine, the federal government would simply be allowing the market forces to take over: Just like any other commercial situation, if a company's not making money in one sector, they'll look to another market to make up the difference.

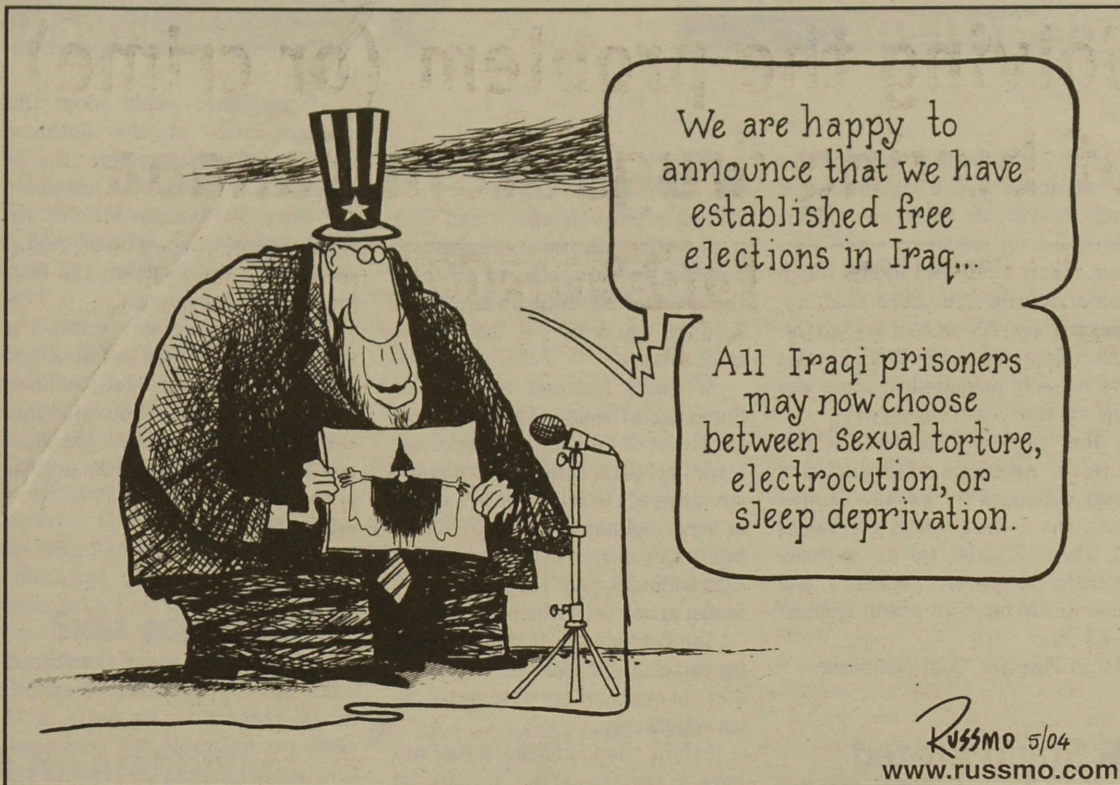
But what about those countries that will allow drugs to be sold there only if they are sold at fixed prices? Won't raising the price worldwide effectively eliminate those countries' access to the drugs?

Not so, argues U.S. Rep. Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

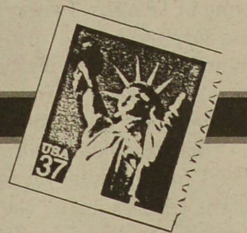
"These companies would be forced to present the price-setting countries with an ultimatum: Either liberalize your market or we will leave," Toomey said, as quoted by Edward H. Crane and Roger Pilon of the Cato Institute in a July 2003 policy paper.

"It's hard to imagine that countries in this situation will deny their citizens access to lifesaving drugs. Instead, they will most likely ease

See **SOLVING** Page 22



THE MAILBOX



Our VP election

As the selection of our candidates for president and vice-president will have taken place by the time this reaches print, I believe the time has come to change the process.

The presidential nominee should be able to choose his running mate. A separate election for vice-president not only doesn't make sense, it is potentially unconstitutional.

Choosing the vice-president separately could also prevent us from fielding the strongest ticket.

We have four years to make the change. Let's do it.

—MICHAEL SMITH

Winston-Salem, North Carolina

4th Amendment

Isn't it amazing how well-educated people can swear to "uphold and defend" the Constitution, then draft elaborate arguments trashing the hard-won protections of our Bill of Rights?

Most recently, in Massachusetts — the very state where our forefathers mustered courage enough to throw the famous Boston Tea Party — officials have decided that they need the power to randomly search people boarding trains.

If officials in Massachusetts want to detain American citizens, they should comply with the supreme law of the land — the Constitution, including the Bill of Rights.

The Fourth Amendment ... is straightforward and reads, in part, "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause."

If any state official, the attorney

general, or even the president himself wishes to circumvent any of the protections in the Constitution, let us as a nation openly debate their proposal to do away with our precious freedoms.

Otherwise, every American has a sacred duty to send them this urgent message: Do a better job at border control, at legitimate intel-

**THE PEOPLE WHO
have been writing
lately are made up
of a fifth column...
trying to demoralize
the real LP members
so we'll give up our
fight for individual
rights.**

—M. SAMMS

ligence gathering, at apprehending genuine terrorists; but keep your hands off our Bill of Rights!

—JAMES P. HILTON

Tallahassee, Florida

Insurgents

Libertarians expressing horror over seeing Janet Jackson's breast on television?

Libertarians advocating for more stringent bans on cigarette smoking?

Libertarians insisting the party

take on the platform of animal rights vegans?

Come on! These people aren't Libertarians. The [people] who have been writing to the *LP News* lately are made up of a fifth column of either far-right or far-left wingers trying to demoralize the real LP members so that we'll give up our fight for individual rights and let their vision of collective authoritarianism take over.

Don't be fooled by these insurgents.

—M. SAMMS

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Accountable

[Re: Press release criticizing President Bush for allowing American military to abuse prisoners.]

What happened to the concept of each individual being responsible for their own behavior as a tenet of the Libertarian ideal? Why are the leaders of the Libertarian party so quick to fault those at the top, instead of holding the individuals who did the actual wrongdoing accountable?

Does the leadership of the Libertarian Party want to also be held accountable for the actions of all fellow libertarians? Or is this just a political opportunity to attack Bush and Rumsfeld for other issues beyond what the issue at hand is: abuse of prisoners?

—ERNEST MOOSA

Suwanee, Georgia

Double standard

How is it that President Bush appears concerned about the rape and torture that is reported to have been inflicted upon Iraqi prisoners by their former dictator?

THE PULSE

Drop the pledge?

The July *Pulse* question — Should the LP continue to use the pledge as a condition of membership, or is it so open to personal interpretation as to become almost meaningless? — produced some surprising results: More than half of those who responded to the (unscientific) poll reported that the pledge should be either changed or eliminated.

As Libertarians know, signing the pledge is a condition of membership in the party. All who would be members must be willing to sign it: "I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals."

And most of those who sign the pledge seem to agree that "initiation of force" means that we won't begin the use of force — but that if another uses force, it is appropriate to respond accordingly.

Eighteen readers of *LP News* responded to this question. Seven said the pledge is a cornerstone of the LP, and it should be kept and not changed. Four said to keep it, but alter the wording. Four said to drop the required pledge altogether. And three responses were ambiguous or indecipherable.

Here is a representative sampling of what readers had to say.

■ I know of no other political party in the U.S. that requires the reciting of a pledge before membership is granted. This compels me to believe the pledge is of utmost importance. I do not find the pledge ambiguous, and neither should anyone else.

—STEPHEN WATSON, Los Angeles, California

■ The strength of the pledge lies more in what is not said, than in what is. Keep it.

—DAN PLOGER, Smithville, Tennessee

■ To paraphrase Bill Clinton, it depends on what "initiation" means. At one time, it may have had a clear meaning but now, it has gotten too fuzzy. The pledge should be changed to reflect what all Libertarians believe: "... the freedom of the individual to live a life free of interference from others and without interference towards others."

—BRIAN ENGLE, Newport News, Virginia

■ The pledge ... makes mincemeat of any potential charges that we Libertarians are dangerous, or violent, or criminal, or terroristic. It is very, very smart politics — as well as an expression of the deep commitment to human values that lies at the heart of libertarianism!

—TOM BRUCIA, Houston, Texas

■ That our editor needs to pose this question after 32 years is powerful evidence that it may already be too late; that the Party has lost its way. Anyone of modest intelligence and ten quiet minutes with a dictionary can understand what "non-initiation of force" means; and it has always been what Libertarianism is all about.

—JIM DAVIES, Newbury, New Hampshire

■ I believe having a pledge is a terrible idea. No other political party has this. The pledge is frankly a bit cultish and has a tinge of fanaticism, which we certainly don't want or need.

—PEDRO A. ROMANACH, Miami, Florida

■ Our oath is [a] unifying force; we have just been too dogmatic about it. As a suggestion, how about "We the Libertarians, in the hopes of building a more civilized world, will seek to eliminate the initiation of force and fraud in human affairs."

—WALTER MOREY, Palm Bay, Florida

■ Most garden-variety people have a garden-variety understanding of non-initiation of force, just as they have of self-defense. LP members should continue to sign the LP Pledge. Finer points of the issue can be debated as needed.

—ELKE M. MIKAELIAN, Roswell, New Mexico

■ Drop the pledge. It is a hindrance to signing prospective members up.

—ROBERT E. HUTCHINSON, Chincoteague, Virginia

■ The pledge (along with much of the Platform) tends to scare off people who, like myself, support Libertarian policy but aren't radical

See **PULSE** Page 20

THE PULSE

anarcho-capitalists. Getting rid of it would be a good first step in moving the Party in a more politically serious direction.

—BEN KALAFUT, Tucson, Arizona

■ I am a non-signer of the pledge because its absolutism would make me a hypocrite if I were to sign it. I could sign it, if it were changed to something like, "I hereby certify that I believe in and advocate the minimization of coercion in society."

—MARK W. STROBERG, San Leandro, California

■ From my personal experience, the pledge has served Liberty and the Party well for over two decades.

—ROBERT A. WILLIAMS, Oberlin, Ohio

■ Though we may debate specific applications, the pledge is what separates us from all other parties. It's the principle in the Party of Principle.

—TYSON RICHMOND, Tampa, Florida

September Question: How should we leave Iraq?

A few months ago, the *Pulse* question was whether the war in Iraq was justified on any grounds. A vast majority of readers responded that the war was unjustifiable, that Iraq hadn't attacked the United States, so we had no business retaliating.

Others said that Iraq had ties to terrorist organizations, that Saddam Hussein was a dictator, that the people deserved to be freed, and that the war was necessary for national defense.

Now that we're there, however, how do we get out?

Saddam is gone. He'll not be terrorizing his own people any more.

Meanwhile, thousands of soldiers are still there, and hundreds have been killed in conflict or by bombing attacks. The Libertarian Party and other groups who oppose the war have been calling for the troops to come home.

Regardless of the rationale for going to Iraq, what's the proper way to leave? Is it our government's responsibility to clean up and restructure the nation now that Saddam Hussein is out of power, or should we just pack up our bags and go home?

In lieu of the usual presentation of the *Pulse* responses, with short snippets from many readers represented, the September responses will be printed in longer form — probably 200-250 words — and fewer of them will appear. Up to four responses will be printed, depending on the number we receive.

By printing longer versions of fewer responses, we hope to allow you to make a complete argument instead of having to write their responses in soundbite form.

■ **QUESTION: Do we — as a nation — owe it to Iraq's people to help them put their lives and country back in some semblance of order, or should the United States military and military contractors simply leave before things get any worse? Please keep responses to a maximum of 400 words.**

■ **DEADLINE:** August 8, 2004

August Question: End our War on Drugs focus?

Some have said the War on Drugs should not be regarded as a primary issue for the Libertarian Party's presidential candidate, while others maintain that legalization of marijuana should be the principal focus of the party.

One argument against emphasizing the Drug War is that the LP is consistently pigeonholed as a pro-drug organization. Those who want to de-emphasize the legalization of marijuana say we should try instead to appeal to the American public by stressing Second Amendment rights, lower taxes and the environment — issues that matter to many non-Libertarians — as a way to get the general public to see the LP in a positive light.

■ **QUESTION: Is it time for the Libertarian Party to de-emphasize the War on Drugs, since it's not viewed by most Americans as a matter of key importance? Does the LP's view on legalization cause too many potential members to go elsewhere? Or should we continue stressing the Drug War as a primary concern — recognizing it as a key libertarian ideal? Please keep responses to 100 words or less.**

■ **DEADLINE:** July 8, 2004.

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

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

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

■ **Mail:** Libertarian Party, Attn: The Pulse, 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037

THE MAILBOX

How can it be that America now is outraged by the recent images and reports of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners, while a recent report by Human Rights Watch conservatively concluded that approximately 20 percent of all inmates detained in the United States are sexually assaulted in some way and at least 7 percent raped?

How can we claim that the pictures of American soldiers placing Iraqi detainees in sexually explicit positions doesn't reflect the values of America while we do virtually nothing to prevent violence and rape within our own prison system?

—E.F. HAAS

Mount Pleasant, South Carolina

Stand united

I just finished reading the May issue of *LP News*. I always enjoy being inspired by the writing of like-minded lovers of liberty. I joined the LP because it was a party of principle and true conservatism.

I was troubled by a couple of articles in this issue. On page 13 Jim Burns tried to justify the benefit of joining the Dems to defeat Bush, and on page 27 Alice Lillie was excited to attend an anti-Bush rally.

I also heard Aaron Russo on the Fox News Channel repeat the standard "hate Bush" rhetoric as well.

When did Libertarians stop standing for our own fresh and new ideas, and start working for the Dems? Are the Dems donating to the election coffers of Jim Burns and Aaron Russo? Do they have any Libertarian ideas of their own? Party members should stand strong and united against the Democrats and Republicans, not just Republicans.

—JACK ELLIS

Wilson, North Carolina

Common goal

When I recently attended a Libertarian convention ... I asked 12 Libertarians what it means to be a libertarian and received twelve different answers. How is the public supposed to know what we stand for if we don't know?

To achieve unity a party needs a common goal. More than that, we have to offer people a higher purpose. The Republicans have their Christian fundamentalism and the Democrats offer collectivist protections for the poor. We need to offer people the vision of a better world.

We must remember that an ideal is something to strive for — not necessarily achieved, at least not in the near future. Our dogmatism has only divided us into factions and scared the public away from us.

We must have a common goal for unity and be broad enough for popularity. Our true challenge is to do both at the same time! This will take adroit leadership.

—WALTER MOREY

Palm Bay, Florida

LP, not CSA

Just when I thought I had seen it all — Harry Browne telling everyone that he was going to do them the favor of abolishing their Social Security pensions — Jim Burns comes along.

LP News featured a photo of Burns using the flag of the Confederate States of America as a backdrop. I am not quite sure what Libertarian ideals are to be found in a group of slave holders who would rather fight than switch, or those geniuses that willingly gave their lives for a feudal aristocracy who used them.

The Confederate States of America certainly did not stand for freedom for those where were in shackles and slavery.

I think the Confederate Flag will have a negative effect in most of the country. While intellectuals may write ivory-towerish treatises as to the cause of the Civil War, the average person thought he was helping to end slavery.

If we become important that photo could come back to haunt us.

—ROBERT JOSEPH UNDERWOOD

Springfield, Massachusetts

Rothbard Pledge

How is the LP to remain the Party of Principle when candidates for public office can advocate any position without regard to the party's platform? Our new presidential candidate is a case in point: He says we can't open the borders to free immigration until the welfare state has been abolished. The platform calls unconditionally for the "elimination of all restrictions on immigration."

It would not work for the LP to attempt to control what candidates say to the public.

I propose that the answer lies in having candidates tell the whole truth by giving, where there is disagreement, the Party's position as given in the Platform as well as their own position, and by not in-

cluding positions that disagree with the Platform in their prepared materials.

If candidates would adopt this strategy, part of the Rothbard Pledge (see www.lprc.org), the LP has at least a chance of remaining the Party of Principle without stifling all dissenting opinion. And it would keep the focus on the Platform, where it belongs.

To me, anyone who wants less state power in at least one area, and no more in all other areas, is a libertarian and should be welcomed into the fold to work against the state and for liberty in whatever area he or she is comfortable.

—SCOTT OLMSTED

Encinitas, California

Raise gas tax?

Estimates of added healthcare costs [due to pollutants from vehicles] range from six cents to 45 cents per gallon of fuel consumed. How about adding 25 cents to the gas tax?

Stationary power plants furnishing electricity to rail and rail variants would be much cleaner than what we have now, and the new modes compare to what we have now as cars, trucks and buses could be compared to covered wagons.

—BOB DOSTAL

Iowa City, Iowa

Stay focused

In the May *LP News*, several references were made to infighting and how counterproductive it is. I agree. Let's stay focused on the real problems.

We should be inviting everyone who thinks that the size and scope of government is too big to support us or join us, regardless of any libertarian "impurities." At some time in the future, when people become comfortable with the new, reduced size of government, they can reassess their involvement with the LP. Meanwhile, ours is the only party advocating much smaller, limited government. Do you want government to shrink or grow?

—SCOTT FROST

Kenmore, Washington

Bigger problems

With regard to the article in the May edition of *LP News*, "No to Double Dip Retirement System," I may be greedy or immoral by Oregon libertarian standards, but I see nothing wrong with state workers going back to work after they retire.

Are Oregon libs saying people drawing a salary no longer deserve the retirement benefits they qualified for? Are they saying people drawing retirement benefits no longer deserve to work and be paid? I hope not!

Oregon libs need to reason more carefully.

When employee A retires, the state must replace that employee by hiring employee B. The state then must pay out both a pension and a salary, whether employee A and employee B are the same person or



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not.

The only way to lower state costs is for the state to hire a less experienced employee B to replace the higher paid employee A who has retired.

But for that hiring decision to be made in the best interest of the state, it must be made by the state manager responsible for hiring, and not by libertarians from afar. The retiree may indeed be the most cost-effective choice.

The moral of this story is that Oregon libertarians are no better at micromanaging other people's affairs than anyone else. Surely Oregon has bigger problems than this.

—DAN FERNANDES

La Verne, California

■ No profiling I

The recent article on racial profiling on the LP Web site [June LP News Libertarian Solutions] was somewhat unnerving. I have trouble understanding how a group of people who are normally so paranoid about giving government the ability to harass its citizens can somehow accept governmental harassment of certain individuals based on race.

Admittedly, the article was more even-handed than I expected — the many flaws of racial profiling were listed along with the handful of benefits.

However, the article's conclusion completely ignored many important pieces of evidence in the article. If police could catch and release the DC sniper multiple times because he didn't meet their racial profile, it's obvious that racial profiling is not an answer to catching terrorists.

I also found it odd that the article attacks John Ashcroft for racial profiling in one paragraph, only to then come out in support of racial profiling. We're supposed to be the Libertarian Party, a party that's conservative on economic issues but liberal on social issues, not the So-Far-Right-We-Make-Bush-Look-Liberal Party. If this is the party of racist policies, let me know so I can cancel my membership.

—PAUL TRIPP

Omaha, Nebraska

[Editor's note: Increasing attention paid to some people at security stops is one thing; what Ashcroft approved — arresting thousands of people for no reason, holding them for months at a time on no evidence — is quite a different case. Tripp wasn't the only reader to take offense at this column. Read on.]

■ No profiling II

LP News Editor Daniel Cloud is wrong about ethnic profiling. He argues, "Searching a vehicle on the highway or a passenger in an airport for simple racist reasons is objectionable; searching the same airline passenger because of a defined statistical propensity for a specific

crime is arguably — while perhaps still objectionable — a necessity."

Well, at least he's right about one thing. Searching an airline passenger because of a defined statistical propensity for a specific crime is definitely objectionable. The part he's wrong about is his unwarranted assumption that it's a necessity. Cloud offers no actual evidence that such searches are necessary, let alone effective. He merely assumes them to be necessary, primarily because everyone else has made the same assumption. But uniform acceptance of a falsehood doesn't make that falsehood true.

—WALT THIESSEN

Warrenton, Virginia

■ No profiling III

LP News editor J. Daniel Cloud poses two racial profiling scenarios whose morality he evaluates quite differently. To pull over a carload of young black men is "despicable." To strip-search and destroy the luggage of an Arab-American traveler whose bags have already been specially searched and proven harmless?

Peachy, it seems, or at least "a necessity," although Cloud does

hint that we could get the government out of the dirty business and allow fully privatized airlines to choose to bar Arab-named passengers altogether.

Even more revoltingly, he touts Robert Levy's opinion that "Arabic truckers" should be searched more frequently. Imagine the consequences for the victims.

If many cops made a habit of pulling over olive-skinned truckers in hopes of catching a terrorist, such drivers could spend many hours by the side of the road. And eventually they would get fired, for the "statistically rational" reason that they don't arrive as promptly as white drivers.

Can Cloud list some jobs so lacking in imaginable security risks that Arab-Americans could hold them without harassment? Does he really think all of this strip-searching and pulling over will reduce the number of future potential terrorists? The experience in Palestine has not been that children who grow up seeing their parents humiliated by armed Caucasians develop a desire to love and obey those same authorities.

Perhaps the FBI should keep a list of Muslim converts. We could flag their drivers' licenses so authorities will know to give them extra scrutiny. But how will security pick them out from a crowd of white or black pedestrians or subway riders,

so they can be detained for "surveilling potential targets"?

Perhaps we could make them wear green crescents on their coats.

—WENDY APPLEQUIST

St. Louis, Missouri

[Editor's note: Levy said, and I agree, that Arabic truckers who could hypothetically be proven more likely to perform terrorist attacks could reasonably be searched more often than other truckers.

No call was made for an all-out search of Arabic truckers. No one is even concerned about the safety issue presented by truckers; the entire example was hypothetical.

As for the other suggestions — tracking Muslim converts, flagging drivers' licenses, picking them out of crowds: Read the column again.

And to anyone else concerned that I'm calling for racial profiling, think again. I merely pointed out — as others have done — that every person who has hijacked a plane to perform a terrorist attack on U.S. soil has fit a particular profile, so it might make sense to pay attention to people who fit that profile.

For what it's worth, I am among those "profiled" by both cops and airport security. I shave my head; I ride a motorcycle; I wear combat boots; I routinely carry and read "subversive" Libertarian material.

In many people's minds, I am a

security risk. And I am among those who have grown up being threatened by "armed Caucasians." They're called police. It's our government. I've been stopped and questioned for walking at night on my own street. I've had cops break into my house and hold me at gunpoint for absolutely no reason. No, I'm not apt to "love and obey" them, as you say.

Responses like this are what led me to title one subsection in the column "Logic, not emotion."

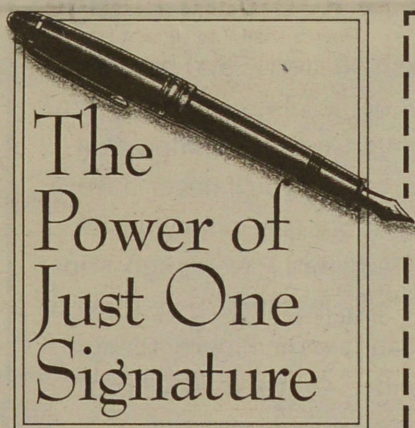
Some readers obviously extrapolated that I must be in favor of, let's see, pretty much everything I said directly in the column that I am opposed to. Read the column again.

You may notice that in the final paragraphs, I did not say that racial profiling is necessary. Rather, I wrote that it "is arguably — while still objectionable — a necessity."

I understand that it's objectionable. Hey, I object to being searched. Anyone who doesn't intend to blow up planes can object to being searched. I object to being told I can't bad-mouth the TSA workers as they force me to plug in my laptop and start a program, to prove that it's not a sophisticated disguise for C-4.

But the column says it's arguably necessary. These letters, and this response, are the argument implied in "arguably."

Is it a necessity? I'm not sure. But the arguments have been made.]



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

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Solving Canadian drug re-imports

Continued from Page 18

their controls and increase the price they are willing to pay for drugs."

Some argue that this process would cause the companies to cut costs by doing less research and development on new drugs, resulting in a stagnation of the drug market.

Wrong again.

Despite the claims of pharmaceutical companies in ad campaigns — which tout their desire to improve

the lives of all mankind through medicine — they exist to make money, just like all other commercial entities.

Once a drug has been on the market for a period of years, it can be copied and sold, as a generic, at a much-reduced cost. If the companies try to rest on their laurels and don't bother developing new medications, their initial investment in the existing drugs will cease paying

off, as the use of generic equivalents begins replacing use of the brand name product.

Because generic drugs cost, on average, a third as much as brand name drugs, they now account for 46 percent of the prescriptions sold in the United States, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The best way to continue ringing a profit lies through R&D, through bringing "new and improved" prod-

ucts to the market. It's good for business to keep working on new medicines, so the drug companies will continue doing so.

If the U.S. government allows Americans to re-import drugs from Canada, it won't sound a death knell for the pharmaceutical industry.

Yes, the pricing of drugs will be more equalized among nations, thus cutting the need for re-importation. Yes, some countries will begin paying more for medication. But the drug manufacturers will still make their money — they just won't be making all of it from Americans.

The federal government could also help with the development and introduction of new medicines — thereby lessening the cost of medication in all countries and further reducing the need for re-importation — by simply getting out of the way.

Some Canadians have discovered this. Their government is even slower than the U.S. FDA to approve new drugs, so many Canadians end up crossing the border to the U.S. to buy them.

And here, the FDA takes much longer to approve drugs than the regulatory agencies in other countries, making it difficult to get new drugs on the market.

One drug, for example — propranolol, "the first Beta-blocker to be used extensively to treat angina and hypertension" — wasn't approved for use in the United States until several years after it was approved in Great Britain, and "approximately 10,000 Americans died needlessly every year because it was against the law for their doctors to treat them with propranolol," said Dr. Mary Ruwart, a renowned pharmaceutical research scientist.

"The regulatory delay of this single drug may have been responsible for the death of more Americans than all other deaths from drugs in this century," Ruwart wrote in a paper called "Death by regulation: the price we pay for the FDA."

Ruwart, who is also a libertarian author, sought an appointment as FDA commissioner in 2001 telling President Bush in a letter that she wanted "to facilitate the conversion of the FDA from a bureaucratic regulatory regime into a market-oriented support system that maximizes our access to life-saving medications."

Even aspirin, she said, causes malformations when given to pregnant animals, and "could not gain FDA approval if tested today."

What is the best solution to the problem of expensive drugs, which is caused in large part by massive regulation and leads to the need for re-importation? Privatize the FDA, or do away with it altogether, allowing the drug companies' testing to be done without bureaucratic interference.

But wouldn't that result in drugs being prematurely brought to the market, potentially endangering the lives of those who take them?

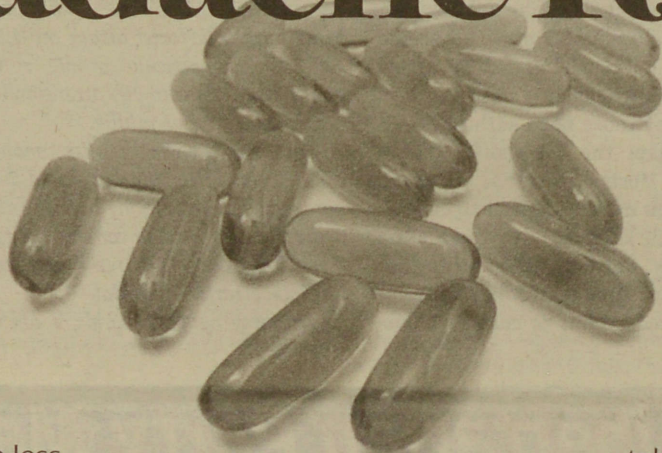
Not likely: No drug company wants to give its customers drugs that will be bad for them.

"Before the FDA came into being, American drug manufacturers usually gave their customers the best drugs that the state of the art would allow," Ruwart says. "After all, killing the customer is bad business."

Allowing patients' health to decline because they either can't afford the drugs or because the medicine has been kept off the market by over-zealous bureaucrats is wrong.

Which is worse for the patient — treating them with drugs from Canada or drugs that may or may not work, in hopes that a life may be saved, or not allowing them access to the drugs at all?

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Or join by calling (202) 333-0008 x221.

Or join by mail, using the easy response form below. Thank you.

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Why I Became a Liberty Pledger

"I support the Liberty Pledge program because I believe it makes the party more effective. A strong, guaranteed financial base makes planning and budgeting easier, and lets the LP spend less time on fundraising and more time on actual projects. It is a welcome reminder each month that there is something I can do for liberty."

— Steve Dennett (Retired)
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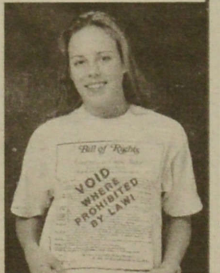
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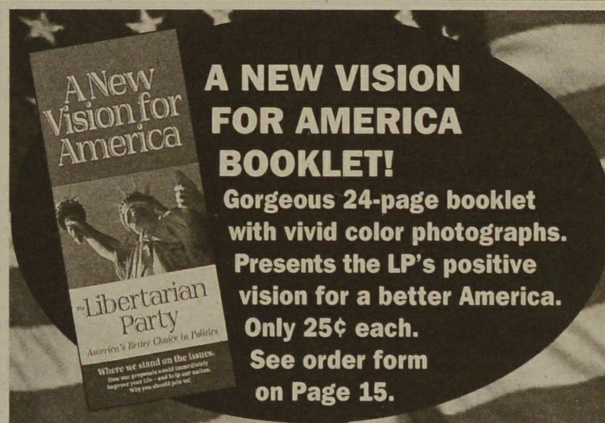
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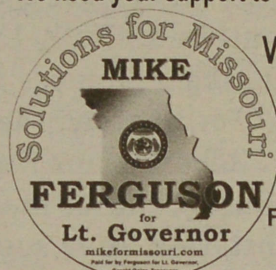
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LP NEWS EDITOR

J. Daniel Cloud

CONTACT LP NEWS

Libertarian Party / Attn: LP News
2600 Virginia Ave., NW, Ste 100
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Phone: (202) 333-0008 x226
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UPCOMING

July 21-26, 2004

ISIL's 23rd World Conference, Novotel Rotorua, New Zealand. Sponsored by the International Society for Individual Liberty & the Institute for Liberal Values. Speakers include Elbegdorj Tsakhia (former prime minister, Mongolia), Michael Cloud (creator, *The Art of Political Persuasion*), and Rodney Hide (member, New Zealand Parliament). For information, visit: www.ISIL.org. E-mail: isil@ISIL.org. Call: (707) 746-8796.



■ Cloud

July 30-August 1, 2004



Louisiana LP State Convention, in New Orleans. Radisson Hotel on Canal St. The convention will nominate congressional candidates, debate the LP of Louisiana platform, and elect party officers. Speakers to include Libertarian presidential and vice presidential candidates Michael Badnarik and Richard Campagna, as well as James Ronald Kennedy, co-author of "Why Not Freedom," "The South Was Right" and other books. For more information, contact Greg Kahn at 504-522-5000, or visit www.la.lp.org.

August 20-22, 2004

South Carolina Libertarian Retreat, in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The retreat will center around "letting

everyone in the state know how we're shaping up for Nov. 2, and to see how campaigns will unfold for 2006 and 2008," said Joe Clarkson, chair of the Horry County Libertarians. Speakers to include a candidates' forum and state LP chair Chris Panos. For info, contact Clarkson at 843-249-8847 or joe_clarkson@email.com, or go to www.horrycountylibertarians.bigstep.com.

September 23, 2004

Heartland Institute 20th Anniversary Benefit Dinner, at the Chicago Hilton Hotel. For more information, call (312) 377-4000 or go to www.heartland.org.

October 28-31, 2004

Cato University Fall Weekend Seminar, "Arguments for Liberty: How to Defend Individual Rights and Limited Government," Le Chateau Frontenac, Quebec City, Canada. Sponsored by the Cato Institute. Speakers include Tom Palmer (director, Cato University), Don Boudreaux (Department of Economics, George Mason University), and Robert A. Sirico (Acton Institute). For information, visit: www.cato-university.org.



■ Palmer

November 2, 2004

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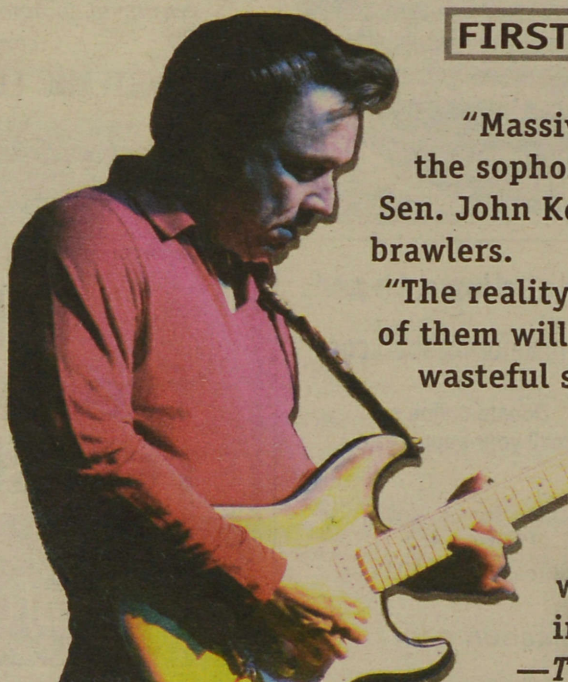
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■ **PAGE 3** Mike Dixon takes over as LNC chair

■ **PAGE 4** First private space flight launched



FIRST WORD

"Massive amounts of print space and TV time have been devoted to the sophomoric and escalating brawl between President Bush and U.S. Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass. But that's all there is to them — they are just brawlers.

"The reality is that they have more in common than not. Electing either of them will result in basically the same mess: more taxation, more wasteful spending, and more intrusion into everyone's bedrooms.

"Fortunately, there is an alternative — the Libertarians.

"Libertarians think government should treat all people equally, rather than giving some privileges and others obstacles. They suggest that only limited government, with a few narrowly defined tasks, is capable of protecting individuals' rights."

—THE FREE LANCE-STAR, Fredricksburg, Virginia, March 26, 2004