

Vermont Libertarian Times

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Convention '90 Set For April 7



Dr. Walter Williams to be luncheon speaker

Jackie Tidd, Chair of the Convention '90 Committee has announced that the Annual Convention will be held on April 7th, at the Sheraton-Burlington Inn. The one day event will feature noted economist and author Walter Williams as the speaker at the 1:00 PM luncheon.

Dr. Williams is a 1965 graduate of California State University and received his Ph.D in Economics from U.C.L.A., in 1972. He is the author of 4 books, hundreds of newspaper and magazine articles advocating free-market economics, and has appeared on such TV news programs as *Firing Line*, *Counterpoint*, *Nightline*, *Face the Nation*, *Crossfire*, and CNN's *Larry King Show*. He is currently John M. Olin Distinguished Professor of Economics at George Mason University.

L.P. Denounces Drug Summit

When George Bush arrives in Cartagena, Columbia, for his much heralded "Drug Summit" he may find a welcome he didn't anticipate. The national party has a surprise for the President. Opposite the editorial page of at least one of the major dailies in Columbia on Feb. 15, will be a full-page ad from the Libertarian Party warning the Columbian's about the dangers of Bush's Drug War. El Tiempo will run the ad for \$4100 and negotiations with El Espectador are continuing.

The ad begins by outlining the failure of Prohibition in the U.S., draws an analogy to the 'drug war,' and warns the Columbian people that we are exporting the 'terrible consequences' of this war to their country. It states, "*We do not believe that the course of action chosen by the United States government will do anything other than make the problem worse.*" It continues,

"All of us want to end the plague of drug abuse and we call upon you, the mothers and fathers of Columbia, to join us in a search for more just and humane solutions to the problems of drug addiction and abuse; new ways based on respect for the right of each person to own his own life, body and work, making free choices and bearing responsibility for those choices and actions."

A box at the end of the article briefly explains the Libertarian Party and its principles. The ad was drafted a month ago and, at the request of its authors, revised substantially by Ferde Grofe who has lived in Columbia for 20 years

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VT L.P. Helps To Fight Act 200

Just about everyone who reads this newsletter is aware of the tremendous success that Citizens for Property Rights had with their January rally in Barre. Radio, TV and newspaper coverage from around the state broadcast the fact that 1256 ordinary Vermonters showed up to voice their frustration with Act 200.

Among the crowd were several Libertarians including David Dana from Pomfret, David Atkinson from Randolph, Bruce Wiley from North Ferrisburg, Adam and Fred Oertly from Quechee, and Sally Simons from Sheffield. The most prominent Libertarian present was Sally's husband Jack. He is the President of CPR and acted as the Master of Ceremony. Jack is also a member of the Sheffield Planning Commission.

CPR is now urging all its members and the general public to immediately write to their legislators calling for repeal of Act 200. Libertarians needing the name of their senator or representative can call Agnes Mitchell at 434-2402. The group has petitions calling for a vote on Act 200 in 120 towns and is planning its strategy for Town Meeting Day as this newsletter was going to press.

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Drug War Ads

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and Marshall Fritz. It was felt that their work has given it the right tone for maximum impact, given the context of the current debate in Columbia.

A fund-raising effort by the Operation Bold Strike committee had raised over \$3,500 as of 31 January. The national party has pledged an additional \$1,000, if needed. At least five Vermont L.P. members have contributed to the effort and their names will be included on the ad.

The ultimate effect of shielding men from the effects of folly is to fill the world with fools.

Herbert Spencer, 1844

New Hampshire L.P. Covers Fairs

This summer libertarians in eastern Vermont should be aware of several fairs in New Hampshire where the N.H. Party will be attempting to operate booths. Four fairs within easy driving distance are the Cheshire Fair in Swanzey, N.H., the North Haverhill Fair, the Cornish Fair, and the Lancaster Fair. Anyone interested in these events should contact Howard Wilson, Jr., at P.O. Box 91, Andover, N.H. 03216.

Vermont Libertarian Times

Vermont Libertarian Times is a monthly publication of the Libertarian Party of Vermont. Its purpose is to inform party members of recent activity of the L.P. and to provide information about upcoming events. Opinions expressed within this publication are in general agreement with the philosophy of the party unless otherwise noted.

Articles to be included in *Vermont Libertarian Times* should be sent to: Ed McGuire, R.D. 2, Box 354, Hinesburg, Vermont 05461 Phone: (802) 482-3075.

Seminar 1 Begins Spring Session

Time is running out!! If you are interested in seeing effective libertarian outreach conducted in your area of Vermont don't delay!! Seminar 1 is starting back up with its spring sessions. This highly effective and economical vehicle for recruiting brand-new libertarians has been successfully employed by three Vermont L.P. members. Bob Conlon, David Atkinson and Ed McGuire have all conducted a Seminar 1 during 1989. Each of them had high praise for the program.

"There isn't a better outreach vehicle available to the Libertarian Party than Seminar 1," argues Ed McGuire. "I used it and watched it work. It was fun, effective and it didn't end up costing me anything!" Anyone interested in conducting a seminar should call Ed immediately at 482-3075. The sessions run by Marshall Fritz and the *Advocates For Self-Government* will begin in early March and mid-April. Training has already started by teleconference.

Write A Letter !

A political party is always attempting to clarify its political positions and attract new people to its cause. One proven method is free and almost effortless. It is an organized campaign of letter writing to local newspapers. The *Letters-to-the-Editor* sections of most papers are looking for fresh ideas and new authors.

Lynn Fife has organized a small group of libertarians to draft letters and he is looking for folks willing to take these drafts, modify them as they see fit, and submit them to the local paper. If you are interested please call Lynn at 658-0743.

L.P. Lobbies For None Of The Above

The Libertarian Party of Vermont held a news conference on January 17, supporting Senate Bill 79. The bill calls for "None Of the Above" (NOTA) to be printed on all state election ballots. The conference at the WCAX newsroom in Montpelier was covered by WVNY and WPTZ, as well as the Vermont Press Bureau.

David Atkinson, Vermont L.P. Vice-Chairman, arranged the event as part of his statewide efforts to publicize the bill. This legislation would require that NOTA be an option for all state elections, including Vermont Assembly and Senate. If NOTA received a majority then the office would remain unfilled until the Legislature acted according to the provisions of the Vermont Constitution.

According to Atkinson, "The goal is to let everyone in Vermont know about S.B. 79 and convince the legislature to enact it. By sending one dollar to N.O.T.A., 16 Merchant's Row, Randolph, 05060, you will receive a bumper sticker and a poster. Display a sticker even if you hate stickers! With voter turnout as low as 50% in U.S. elections we need a way to attract voters who are turned off by some of the choices presented to them. This bill allows them to let the political parties know that their candidates were unacceptable."



David Atkinson (left) and Ed McGuire (right) at Jan. 17 news conference in Montpelier.

News From The National L.P.

The National Rifle Association, largest gun owner group in the world, has responded positively and usefully to the Libertarian Party's unswerving support of gun ownership. In three successive issues of its 3 million circulation monthly magazine, *American Rifleman*, the Libertarian Party has been mentioned and praised.

A record-breaking annual budget of nearly \$500,000 was adopted by the L.P. National Committee at its December meeting in San Diego. The party enters 1990 with no debt, record levels of income, and a positive, aggressive stance. The 1990 budget expanded party revenues by some \$160,000 over the budget adopted a year ago and funded a number of outreach activities cut in 1988 due to a lack of income.

In a related development, two television ads are to be completed in the near future. The LNC appropriated \$5,000 to test market the new TV ads in a small media market as soon as they are available.

Libertarian Party membership is at an all-time high of 8234, with successive records being set in each of the past four months. With the help of an active membership committee, a membership plan was established and presented to the LNC at the December meeting. The plan includes a 50/50 membership dues and LP NEWS subscription split for states who collect this money from their state members, annual membership packets for members, and a membership card.

The national L.P. will be having a membership contest from February 1, 1990 through April 30, 1990. The theme of the contest will be "Take the

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Upcoming Events

Every Saturday:

V.I.L. Meeting, What's Your Beef II, Shelburne Road, Shelburne, VT (7 A.M.)

March 5:

Chittenden County Supper Club, Lincoln Inn, Essex Jct., VT (6:30 P.M.)

March 12:

State Executive Committee Meeting, Pine Shore Road, Hinesburg, VT (7 P.M.)

April 7:

Annual Vermont L.P. Convention: Sheraton Inn, Williston Road, So. Burlington, VT (11 A.M.)

Ads Get Results !

Vermonters' For Individual Liberty, a group of libertarians bent on clearly establishing the L.P.'s principles in the minds of Vermonters, is one month into its ad campaign in the Vanguard Press. The ads have appeared in each weekly edition of the paper since January 25.

After only two full weeks of operation the ad project has already started paying off. Lynn Fife reported that two UVM professors have mentioned the ads. A Burlington businessman contacted the Vermont L.P. as a result of reading the ads and joined V.I.L. at the Feb. 10 meeting. And a request for information was received at the party's mailbox as a result of the latest ad.

Vermont Contacts

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News From The Counties

CHITTENDEN

The Chittenden County Supper Club continues to meet on the 1st Monday of every month at the Lincoln Inn in Essex Junction. The meetings start at 6:30 PM and involve an unformatted discussion of political, economic and social events in Vermont and the world.

ORANGE

Randolph chairman Carl Ellis checked the town clerk's office for openings in the March elections. Subsequently, David Atkinson decided to run for one of them, Town Selectman. He will be running against four other candidates. Atkinson is well-known in Randolph because of his canteen in the town center and his run for state legislature in 1988, when he obtained 13% of the vote. According to Ellis, "he is hoping for 25% this time out."

WINDSOR

Windsor county libertarians have been very busy in the past month. Barry Fagin of Chester had a full-page editorial in the *Valley News* calling for drug legalization. And Royalton has obtained enough signatures to have Act 200 put before the voters during the March town meeting.

In Pomfret, David Dana is running for selectman as the result of a write-in campaign. He has been prominent lately for his successive efforts to get three property tax reforms on the March ballot at town meeting. Additionally, he has served as clerk of the planning commission during 1989. Jill Anderson is also a member of that commission. Finally, through their efforts, Pomfret's Conservation Commission is trying to replace zoning with a property-rights oriented covenant system.

National News

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Challenge ." State parties will be competing for the most membership growth in each of three categories. Awards will be announced later this year with prizes subsequently presented.

HELP WANTED: Libertarians needed to assist with the party's 1990 plans for attending fairs around the state. Opportunities to travel, meet very interesting and unique people, and eat strange and exotic foods. No previous training necessary. Contact Ed, 482-3075.

HELP WANTED: Fundraising chairperson needed. Job requires perserverance, persuasiveness, and originality. Introverts need not apply. Perhaps the key job in the Vermont L.P. in 1990. Renumeration is possible; make us an offer. For details contact Barb, 878-8070.

TRENDS

(Copied from REASON Magazine)

Post Haste. The House votes to put the Postal Service off-budget, giving it the same insulated status as Social Security. Meanwhile, Postmaster General Anthony Frank foresees big rate increases come 1991. Costs, he says, have jumped 20 percent (!) in two years. Get read for the 32-cent stamp.

Deng Heap. As China continues its crackdown, the Bush administration privately adopts the Chinese line that the media exaggerated the importance of the protests and the massacre. High-level contacts continue, contrary to announced policy. China's \$780 million in World Bank loans - held up since June - will likely be restored, as will sales of military goods. Chinese refugees find little sympathy at U.S. embassies; many turn to France or West Germany instead.

Bankrupt Policy. Congress bails out the S&L's at a cost of at least \$150 billion - "enough money," writes P.J. O'Rourke, "to pay for a New York City taxi ride from the earth to the planet Uranus and back thirty-six times, including tip" - but refuses to reform deposit insurance, the source of the problem. And the bailout, notes economist Allan Meltzar, will leave the feds with loads of foreclosed land and buildings, ripe for all sorts of backroom deals.

HELP WANTED: Public Relations Director. Job requires working with news media, overseeing and coordinating efforts of several subcommittees including Letters-to -the-Editor campaign, press releases, and advertising, as well as integrating PR strategy into ongoing L.P. activities. Requires familiarity with news organizations, flexible schedule, and travel. Expenses will be reimbursed. For details contact David Atkinson, 728-5566.

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FIRST CLASS