

#### **INSIDE**

- Georgia LP launches anti-tax petition
- Libertarians continue to protest Iraqi war
- Virginia LP rallies for property rights
- Libertarian Party's 2002 Annual Report
- Reducing the USA's unemployment rate



■ California LP Secretary Lori Adasiewicz (at podium), speaking at a "Recall Gray Davis" Rally on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento on February 22: "Libertarians support the recall because of the threat Davis poses to our liberty, wallet, and way of life." Her speech earned "much applause and cheers."

### California Libertarians endorse plan to recall 'corrupt' governor

an effort to recall Democratic Governor Gray Davis. At its annual convention in Ontario, California on February 15-17, the party passed a resolution endorsing a "Dump Davis" drive. In doing so, it became the first political party to officially sign onto the recall effort.

he California LP has joined

Davis is a "corrupt, abusive, and incompetent politician," said California LP Secretary Lori Adasiewicz.

"The recall is not based on Davis' status as a Democrat, but [on] his complete mockery of the representative system and the laws of the state of California," she said.

#### Criticized by LP

Davis, who has an approval rating of only 24%, has been criticized in the past by the state LP for excessive spending, for mishandling the state's 2001 electricity crisis, for accepting pay raises in violation of a campaign promise, for signing a ban on socalled "assault weapons," and for stalling legislation to implement Proposition 215, which legalized medical marijuana.

To recall Davis, supporters will

have to collect 897,158 petition signatures from registered voters equivalent to 12% of those who voted in the November 2002 governor's race.

"The Libertarian Party of California recognizes that a successful recall of Governor Davis will require a statewide grassroots, non-partisan movement," said LP State Chair Aaron

"The daunting task, if successful, would be unprecedented - and would exceed even the victory vot-

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Libertarian Party

Tax Day Rallies:

Tuesday,

April 15th

ers achieved with the passage of landmark Proposition 13 [in 1978]."

Following the lead of the LP, the state Republican Party endorsed the recall effort at its convention on Feb-

On February 22, Libertarians participated in a rally on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento to muster support for the recall effort.

Speaking for the Libertarian Party, Adasiewicz said she gave a "rousing

See RECALL Page 7

# Anti-drug war judge joins LP

### Superior Court Judge James Gray: He was 'compelled to join' party

Superior Court judge who is one of the nation's highest-profile critics of the War on Drugs has joined the Libertarian Party.

James Gray, 57, who presides over the Orange County, California Superior Court, became an LP member in mid-February.

In a phone conversation with LP

Political Director Ron Crickenberger, Gray said he joined because of the Libertarian Party's Drug War Focus Strategy, which seeks to end the War on Drugs at the federal level by 2010.

#### Only party

"Drug Prohibition is the most critical issue facing the world today, and the Libertarian Party is the only party addressing it," said Gray. "I felt compelled to join."

Crickenberger said Gray's decision to join the LP is "exciting" news.

"Judge Gray isn't just a high-ranking and respected public official, he is one of the country's most articulate critics of Drug Prohibition," he said. "As a judge, he brings credibility, dignity, and insight to the drug

law reform movement. It's wonderful and exciting news that he is now a Libertarian Party member.'

In joining the LP, Gray "has become one of the party's highest-ranking elected officeholders," with about 2.9 million constituents in Orange County, said Crickenberger.

After joining the party, Gray spoke at the California LP state convention

> on February 16, and at an LP State Chair's conference in Houston, Texas on February 22-23.

> In his speech to the California Libertarians and in conversation with Crickenberger — Gray also said he is considering seeking the LP's 2004 presidential nomination.

> "I want to do everything I can do to stop the needless tragedy resulting from our misplaced drug policies," he said.

Gray is the author of

Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It: A Judicial Indictment of the War on Drugs. Published in April 2001 by Temple University Press, the book expounds on Gray's premise that "drug policy reform [is] the most important issue

See JUDGE JOINS Page 7



■ Judge James Gray: Drug war is nation's "most critical issue."

### LP joins campaign to halt tort bill

tort reform bill that would "expand federal power at the expense of state governments."

LP Chair Geoffrey Neale agreed to the cooperative effort after Nader, a longtime consumer advocate and the 2000 Green Party presidential candidate, telephoned him to ask for help in January and February.

"Ralph called to ask for LP sup-

he Libertarian Party has port against the tort reform bill beagreed to cooperate with fore Congress, because he felt that Nader's left-wing agenda on many is-Ralph Nader to try to stop a the bill would strip Constitutional sues, Neale said this was a rare inrights from the states regarding awards by juries," said Neale.

#### Aid the efforts

"Basically, I think he wanted any support we could give. In his opinion, he saw quite a bit of Libertarian interest, and obviously he felt our involvement could aid the efforts against this bill," he said.

stance where the two could work to-

"I think it is prudent for us to support any [individuals or organizations] that fight for the Constitution," he said.

The LP agreed to distribute a press release opposing the tort reform bill, do media interviews, and, if invited,

See TORT REFORM Page 2

#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Supreme Court rejects ballot access appeal

he U.S. Supreme Court has refused to hear a lawsuit filed by the Libertarian Party that challenged Georgia's restrictive ballot access laws.

On March 10, the court denied without comment an appeal for *Cartwright v Perdue* (02-1082).

It marked the 20th consecutive time the high court in Washington, DC has rejected a Libertarian Party ballot access case.

"I think they really don't like the Libertarian Party," said Richard Winger, publisher of *Ballot Access News*, about the Supreme Court's action. "We know five of them are very partisan Republicans; they probably read in the paper that we cost the Republicans a few seats. That's as deep as it goes."

The Georgia LP had filed *Cartwright v Perdue* on May 24, 2001. Plaintiffs included Libertarians who wanted to run for U.S. House in 2002, but were unable to do so.

Georgia does have onerous ballot access laws, said Winger: If a party's most recent presidential or gubernatorial candidate did not win at least 20% of the vote, all district candidates — for U.S. House, state representative, and state senate — must submit petitions equal to 5% of the registered voters in the district.

No minor party Congressional candidate in Georgia has ever been able to meet that requirement, and only one independent candidate — in 1964 — was able to do so, said Winger.

#### Indiana Libertarian on election Plan Team

ibertarian Christa Adkins has been named to the Indiana Secretary of State's Plan Team, a statewide committee that will work to make elections more fair and accessible.

Adkins was named to the committee by Secretary of State Todd Rokita on February 5 — becoming the first LP member appointed to a statewide position in Indiana, said LP State Chair Mark W. Rutherford.

"We are encouraged that Secretary of State Rokita [solicited] Libertarian participation, and is including us on the team," he said. "Libertarians should be proud that we are making progress towards our inevitable success as a major party in Indiana."

The Plan Team is a byproduct of the Help Indiana Vote Act of 2002. That bill, in turn, was inspired by the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (HR 3295), which was signed into law by President George W. Bush on October 29, 2002.

The federal legislation, passed in the wake of the "dangling chad" fiasco in Florida during the 2000 presidential election, established a program to help states improve their election process.

Specifically, the bill provides federal funds to help states replace antiquated punch-card voting machines and to establish minimum election administration standards for states and local voting districts.

Representatives of the three ballot-qualified parties in Indiana — Republican, Democratic, and Libertarian — were invited to serve on the Plan Team. Also serving on the committee are county election supervisors, a representative from the League of Women Voters, several county clerks, a member of Teamster Local 135, and others.

Adkins, an attorney in Fortville, is married to 2002 Libertarian U.S. House (5th District) candidate Chris Adkins.

#### Louisiana LP condemns gay camp vandalism

he Louisiana LP has spoken out against vandals who damaged a camp that caters to gays and lesbians.

On February 19, the state executive committee unanimously passed a resolution that "condemns the acts of vandalism" committed at Manitou Woods, located between Pollock and Georgetown.

Vandals damaged the camp's front gate and stole a wooden sign over the camp entrance.

"The Libertarian Party wholeheartedly and without exception condemns violence and coercion of any kind, and respects the right of private property as a fundamental right," said the resolution.

"The Libertarian Party of Louisiana condemns the acts of vandalism ... and demands that all violations of the private property rights be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law."

The state LP also chastised local religious leaders who planned a prayer vigil against Manitou Woods. Several Baptist ministers have condemned the camp for marketing itself to gays and lesbians.

But those religious leaders were condemning the wrong thing, said LP State Chair Charles Sallier.

"I call upon the organizers of the protest to join us in condemning the acts of vandalism," he said. "Everyone has the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, no matter what their lifestyle."

# Party agrees to work with Ralph Nader to defeat 'unconstitutional' tort reform

Continued from Page 1

testify before Congressional committees to put pressure on Capitol Hill to reject the legislation.

The tort bill, HR 5 (House Resolution 5), was sponsored by Rep. James Greenwood (R-PA).

Entitled the "Help Efficient, Accessible, Low-cost, Timely Health" (HEALTH) Act, the bill would preempt state laws governing medical malpractice lawsuits and limit the ability of juries to determine damages. Greenwood claimed the bill would lower medical malpractice premiums, and reduce the cost of healthcare.

The LP issued a press release opposing HR 5 on February 26, resulting in two interviews on a total of eight radio stations, said LP Communications Director George Getz.

In the release, Neale said HR 5 should be rejected because it would "expand federal power at the expense of state governments" and trample juries' rights.

"This bill represents legislative malpractice at its worst," he said. "If politicians are really concerned about rising medical costs, they should end federal meddling in the health care industry rather than ex-

panding it."

HR 5 would limit the power of juries to punish wrongdoing in medical malpractice cases by capping non-economic damages to \$250,000; make it illegal to inform juries that their award can be limited or overturned; protect companies from civil penalties if their products cause injuries, as long as the products comply with

FDA standards; and set maximum limits for attorneys' fees.

Ralph Nader:

ional rights."

"Strip Constitut-

serious flaws.

The major problem Libertarians have with the bill, said Neale, is that it gives the federal government authority over tort law — an area traditionally reserved to the states.

"The Constitution gives the federal government no authority whatsoever over liability law, so this bill clearly violates the Tenth Amendment," he said.

The bill would also limit the power

"THE SOLUTION

isn't to federalize,
but to respect the
right of Americans
in all 50 states to
solve this problem
by themselves."

of juries to punish wayward large medical institutions for dangerous products, said Neale.

"Libertarians believe that corporations as well as individuals must be held accountable for their mistakes. Shielding them from the consequences of their actions may make medical malpractice more likely in the future, which would drive up health care costs even further.

"The solution isn't to federalize the issue, but to respect the right of Americans in all 50 states to solve this problem by themselves."

The Cato Institute also expressed doubt about federal tort

doubt about federal tor reform efforts like HR 5.

In its Cato Handbook for

In its Cato Handbook for the 107th Congress, the libertarian think tank argued that Congress should "cite constitutional authority before federalizing tort actions traditionally reserved to the states" and "respect the laboratory of tort law provided by the 50 states."

Cato scholar William A. Niskanen acknowledged that American tort law has

"Many victims are undercompensated, some victims receive outrageous awards, and the transaction costs are unduly high," he said. "Insurance premiums for medical malpractice and product liability have become a major burden without any significant incremental effect on health and safety conditions."

However, said Niskanen, "Not all nationwide problems demand national solutions. The problems of American tort law are serious and demand attention, but federalizing tort law would be a major mistake."

Nader's New York-based Center for Justice & Democracy (CJD) is also working to block HR 5, and, in doing so, has made a number of surprisingly Libertarian arguments:

■ Tort reform is a form of corporate welfare: "Proposals to limit public access to the civil justice system do not eliminate injuries or the need for compensation," said the CJD. "They merely shift the costs away from the wrongdoer onto someone

"So, if someone is brain damaged, burned, or rendered paraplegic as a result of the misconduct of another but cannot obtain compensation from the culpable party, he or she may be forced to turn to taxpayer-funded health and disability programs. In other words, tort reform shifts the cost of compensating many injured consumers from corporate wrongdoers to taxpayers."

■ Tort reform is anti-free market: "Tort reform [puts limits on] what is essentially a free-market approach to holding corporations and other wrongdoers accountable for injuring or killing Americans by their dangerous products," arqued the CJD.

■ Tort reform violates state's rights: "Proposed medical malpractice legislation would be a massive pre-emption of state law, dictating for the first time in U.S. history broad medical negligence and liability standards to the courts in all 50 states," said the CJD.

Neale said it had been something of a shock to get a phone call from Nader asking for political assistance.

"I was quite pleasantly surprised," he said. "I've always had a great deal of respect for Mr. Nader, even though I often disagree with him. He has certainly been a most effective political activist in his lifetime."

In turn, Nader complimented the Libertarian Party, said Neale.

"In our conversations, Ralph expressed a great deal of admiration for our ballot access successes," he said. "Having been a presidential candidate, he is very aware of the difficulties of gaining ballot access, and was quite complimentary."

Libertarian Party News (ISSN 8755-139X) is the official monthly newspaper of the Libertarian Party® of the United States. Opinions, articles, and advertisements published in this newspaper do not necessarily represent official party positions unless so indicated.

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LP NEWS PUBLISHER: Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

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



■ Libertarians march in an anti-war rally in San Francisco on February 15. To the mostly left-wing crowd, "We explained that Libertarians are not pacifists," said California LP activist Scott Wilson.



■ The Libertarian Party's "Don't Tread On Me" sign waves above the crowd in San Francisco.



■ An LP member's sign makes a uniquely Libertarian anti-war point

— "Tax Cuts Not Bombs" — at a huge march in New York City on
February 15. About 100,000 people participated in the event.

# Libertarians speak out against Iraqi war

ibertarians around the USA remained active in the campaign to head off a possible war with Iraq, with additional protest rallies, resolutions, and debates in January, February, and early March.

Participating in protests against the war doesn't mean Libertarians are "leftists," said New Mexico LP State Chair Joseph Knight, who spoke at a rally in February.

"The most rabid opponent of the proposed war against Iraq in Congress is Republican Ron Paul," he noted. "He's also the staunched proponent of pure, laissez faire, free-market capitalism in Congress — not leftist by any acceptable definition.

"He, like I, is a libertarian who opposes the initiation of force, whether it's socialists trying to seize the fruits of our labor, or crusaders trying to start a war in our name."

Libertarian anti-war activities around the nation included:

■ In Tennessee, Hamilton County LP Chair Mike Croteau debated the chairs of the county Republican Party and Democratic Party on February 26

The debate was held at Club Fathom, a Christian club in downtown Chattanooga, and was sponsored by the Augustine Forum of Covenant College.

Croteau said he started with a general explanation of what libertarianism is — including the non-initiation of force axiom — and how it affects foreign and domestic policy.

Croteau then "argued against the war, citing the costs (economic and human) that it would involve, and how peaceful, voluntary economic choice and spreading the ideas of freedom and capitalism would be more successful in the Middle East

PARTICIPATING

in protests against a possible war with

Iraq does not mean Libertarians are "leftists."

—Joseph Knight

than they were in bringing down the Iron Curtain," he said.

By contrast, said Croteau, the Republican "enthusiastically supported the administration [and the Democrat said] Democrats supported Bush in Iraq to win the election."

■ In California, Libertarians joined about 150,000 anti-war protesters in a "Walk for Peace" in San Francisco on January 18, said former LPC Monthly editor Scott Wilson.

"Our 'Don't Tread on Me' flag brought many comments and questions," he said. "We explained that Libertarians are not pacifists. We believe that we should have a strong defense of America, but we don't believe in the initiation of force for political or social goals."

■ In Vermont, the LP state committee passed a resolution opposing an "unprovoked attack by the U.S." against Iraq, said State Chair Brendan Kinney

The resolution stated: "The Bush administration (as of the date of this resolution) has failed to provide the American people credible evidence that Iraq has directly or indirectly committed aggression against the USA, or that Iraq presents an imminent threat of aggression against the USA."

As such, the resolution continued, "The Vermont Libertarian Party opposes an unprovoked attack by the U.S. against another nation [because] any such unprovoked attack violates the essence of our Constitutional Republic. [Therefore], the Vermont Libertarian Party opposes an attack against the country of Iraq by the USA at this time."

The Vermont LP passed the resolution, said Kinney, because most state Libertarians did not "feel that the case has been made that we are directly or even indirectly threatened" by Saddam Hussein or Iraq.

"I personally wish that our leaders had spent the same time and en-

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# Michigan LP affiliate files suit over drug comments

n LP county affiliate in Michigan has filed a lawsuit against a Troy city council candidate, charging that she slandered the party by claiming Libertarians say "it's okay to do drugs."

The Libertarian Party of Oakland County filed the suit in Troy District Court (52nd District, 4th Division) on February 26 against Cristina Pappageorge.

#### Televised debate

The Republican candidate made the remarks about the Libertarian Party at a televised debate hosted by the Council of Troy Homeowners Association (COTHA) on February 12.

The debate featured candidates for the non-partisan Troy city council. The election will be held on April 7. Pappageorge is the wife of Republican State Representative John Pappageorge. She is seeking one of two seats on the Troy City Council, and is running against incumbent Libertarian councilman Martin Howrylak, who has served on the council for three years.

In her closing remarks, Pappageorge charged that the local issues raised by Howrylak during the debate were a "smokescreen," and that Howrylak's re-election would encourage children to use marijuana.

She stated: "Mr. Howrylak is a city official; Mr. Howrylak is a Libertarian; Libertarians say it's okay to do drugs."

Pappageorge cited as "proof" a plank from the Michigan LP's platform dealing with vice laws, and said she would distribute a printed copy of the party's website as evidence of



■ Martin Howrylak: "It's a campaign, and things are said that may or may not be true or nice."

the allegation.

Howrylak had already given his two-minute closing statement, and was unable to respond to Pappageorge's comments.

The Oakland County LP filed the lawsuit because Pappageorge's allega-See **LAWSUIT** Page 11

# Georgia party launches online anti-tax petition

he Libertarian Party of Georgia has launched an online petition to stop a half-billion dollar tax increase proposed by the state's new Republican governor.

The petition — at www.404-Freedom.com — is designed to put pressure on the legislature to reject the so-called Perdue Tax Hike, named after Governor George "Sonny" Perdue, said LP State Chair Helmut Forren.

"We decided that it was high time that our legislators in Atlanta started listening to the people they're supposed to be representing," he said.

Perdue, the first Republican governor in the state in 130 years, asked the General Assembly in January to raise the tax on a pack of cigarettes by 48 cents, a six-pack of beer by 14 cents, a bottle of wine by 15 cents,

#### "WE DECIDED

it was time that our legislators started listening to the people they're supposed to be representing."

and a bottle of liquor by 50 cents.

Perdue also asked for property tax rebates to be cut by about \$155 per homeowner, although he has since backed down on that proposal in the

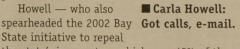
—Helmut Forren

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#### **NEWS BRIEFS**

#### Two Libertarians mull '04 presidential bids

wo past gubernatorial candidates are considering running for president. Carla Howell of Massachusetts and Ken Krawchuk of Pennsylvania have both announced they are thinking about seeking the LP's 2004 presidential nomination.





Carla Howell:



Ken Krawchuk: On Fox show?

the state's income tax, which won 45% of the vote — said she had been asked by LP members to run.

"Several hundred Libertarians from all across America have telephoned, e-mailed, and written, requesting that I seek the 2004 Libertarian presidential nomination," she said

Libertarians told Howell they were impressed by the strong showing of the income tax ballot initiative, her appearances on such shows as The O'Reilly Factor, and her communication skills, she said. Howell said she has not yet made up her mind.

"I will carefully consider this," she said. "A Libertarian presidential campaign would be a huge challenge. I want to do what's best for the Libertarian Party and best for me."

Howell said she will make a decision by Labor Day (September 1). Krawchuk — who also unsuccessfully sought the LP's vice presidential nomination in 2000 — said he started considering a run after C-SPAN nationally broadcast a 2002 Pennsylvania gubernatorial debate in which he appeared.

He received calls from "Libertarians across the nation, saying a lot of embarrassingly nice things about my debate performance, and asking me if I'd consider running for national office," he said.

"I have not decided to run for national office, [but] I have not ruled out the possibility," he said.

If Krawchuk does decide to run, "any campaign strategy will be aimed at assisting the local candidates as much as possible," he said.

To bolster his potential chances, Krawchuk said he has submitted an application to appear on the Fox Network's upcoming show, American Candidate. The show will allow the audience to select a "people's choice for president" by April 2004.

#### Libertarian company offers online products

Libertarian-run company is offering discounted online services for LP affiliates.

The Virginia-based ClickandPledge.com — whose president, Kami Razvan,



joined the LP in January 2003 — sells products that allow organizations to improve their websites, accept online donations, and better communicate with members, said Razvan.

"Our company's aim is to provide clients with all the tools needed to present themselves to potential donors and supporters, as well as providing a secured system for accepting online donations," he said. ClickandPledge.com offers:

■ An online donation system that allows clients to accept credit card donation at their website.

"[It] can be added to any website in five minutes," said Razvan. "Simply cut and paste 10 lines of code and you are set up to accept donations using Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and American Express. There is no charge to set up, or any monthly or maintenance fees, only transaction costs." ClickandPledge.com is offering a discounted transaction rate for LP groups, said Razvan.

■ A website content management system that "allows various users from the organization to add, update, delete, and maintain the organization's website," said Razvan.

The company is offering this software for free to LP groups, said Razvan, and also has a special domain name available for LP organizations: 4Libertarian.org.

■ An e-mail newsletter template, and design, editing, and printing services for traditional paper newsletters.

Razvan said he joined the LP because "the concept of Liberty [is] quite sacred and one that I hope I can help to preserve." Only the Libertarian Party, he said, is "fighting [the] battle for limiting the power of the government."

For more information about ClickandPledge.com, visit: www. ClickandPledge.com. Or call toll-free: (866) www-CLICK.

### Maine LP plans to Restore Hope with 3-month tour around state

he Libertarian Party of Maine wants to restore hope to the

So it is launching "Operation Restore Hope," an ambitious plan to visit every one of Maine's state senate districts, put the LP on the "radar screen" of ordinary citizens, and build a stronger Libertarian Party.

We have the power to take control of our destiny," said LP State Chair J. Fred Staples, who will be embarking on the statewide trek on April 5. "We have the power to take control of our government.

"Bringing the issues directly to the people, bypassing the politicians and bureaucrats, is the quickest, most effective way [for the Libertarian Party] to make an impact.

#### 12 Saturdays

Staples will visit towns in 35 state senate districts — from Madawaska to Kittery — over 12 consecutive

Speaking in church basements, libraries, fire halls, and schools, Staples said he wants to accomplish

"The goals are threefold: Organize, identify, and lead," he said. "[We want to] organize small-government "THERE IS ONLY

one reason Maine is suffering. That reason is big government.

It is time to cut big government down to size."

supporters in all 35 Maine senate districts; identify possibilities for local, county, and state referenda; [and] lead Mainers to restore freedom, responsibility, and prosperity to their

Staples said he thinks the Libertarian message will get a warm reception from Maine residents.

"Mainers are far more libertarian in their views than the results of past elections would indicate," he said. "Many feel that government is so big that their voice cannot be heard. Some feel that there is no hope of turning the ship of state from its current course toward collectivism.

And they have lost hope in the American Dream."

The party has a unique opportunity with Operation Restore Hope because of the state's dismal economic climate, agreed Laura Santini-Smith, editor of the Maine Libertarian newsletter.

#### Dire condition

"There is no doubt about the dire condition of freedom in Maine," she said. "Our tax burden is one of the highest in the country. Our young are driven out of our state because of the lack of opportunity. Business is leaving the state for greener, less regulated pastures.

"There is only one reason that Maine is suffering. That reason is big government. It is time to cut big government down to size. It is time to restore limits to government. It is time to restore hope. Fred Staples will bring the message to every corner of the state that hope is not lost."

As one specific way of giving voters hope, Staples said he will look for opportunities to organize referendum questions to reduce taxes, cut government spending, and eliminate

See RESTORE HOPE Page 5

### Virginia Libertarians 'rally round the flag' to save business owner's property rights

efferson Area Libertarians in Virginia "rallied around the flag" for a local businessman who was dragged into court for flying a com-

On February 22, about three dozen Libertarians and other activists held a demonstration of support for Tom Dulaney Slonaker, owner of an Arby's restaurant on Route 29 in Charlottesville.

In freezing rain, participants waved miniature American flags "to show their support of Mr. Slonaker's constitutional rights," said J.A.L. member John Munchmeyer, who helped coordinate the event.

In December, Slonaker was fined almost \$4,000 by the Albemarle County government for flying an Arby's flag from his flagpole and for parking a vehicle that displayed an

According to county zoning laws, flags are a type of "prohibited sign," and constitute "a public nuisance detrimental to the health, safety, convenience and general welfare of

"Albemarle County officials should be ashamed of themselves," said Munchmeyer. "When you take control of a person's property, you control the person. The situation shows just how far we have allowed the



■ Arby's owner Dulaney Slonaker speaks at a private property rights rally organized by the Jefferson Area Libertarians.

heavy hand of government to get out

"This is America, and we need to be much less concerned with a couple of ugly signs than with government officials going around harassing people, abusing business owners, and violating the Bill of Rights.'

John W. Whitehead, president of the Virginia-based Rutherford Institute, a nonprofit civil-liberties organization that had offered to file a constitutional lawsuit for Slonaker, agreed that important issues were at stake in the case.

'The right of Tom Slonaker to fly a banner in front of his business, the right to conduct yourself on your own property without unreasonable governmental interference ... these are not small matters," he said.

In the face of growing criticism, the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors said in mid February that it would review the zoning ordinance. Slonaker's fine was dismissed, pending the outcome of the review, which could take several months.

#### Much-needed step

"The fact that Albemarle County officials are now reviewing their banner regulation is a much-needed step," said Whitehead. "However, it would not have happened if Tom Slonaker had not decided that it was time to challenge his government."

Speaking at the rally, past LP national chair and current J.A.L. secretary Jim Lark said Slonaker was a "hero" for fighting the unjust law.

"It is so easy for people in his position, when faced with the big stick of government, to seek a private peace," he said. "It takes heroes to step up to the plate in this situation. And Tom, you are one.'

### Party protests war

Continued from Page 3

ergy on rallying the United Nations to go after al-Qaeda as they have on-Saddam Hussein," he said. "At this time, it is hard to deny that the greatest threat to the United States is al-Qaeda and other terrorist groups."

Kinney acknowledged that there was disagreement among state committee members about whether a resolution was appropriate coming from a state-level political party.

However, he said, many who voted in favor of the resolution said it was important to take a stand.

"One of the core principles of the Libertarian philosophy is one of nonaggression," he said. "While our government is charged with defending its citizens from direct threats, it should not initiate force against nations that do not pose a direct and immediate threat.'

#### **Ruthless dictator**

Kinney also stressed that the resolution did not signify support for Saddam Hussein.

"There is no doubt that he is a ruthless dictator," he said. "If the Bush administration presents information clearly linking Saddam Hussein's regime to al-Qaeda, then we would most likely rescind this resolution. But I feel that our government must stop wasting time on con-

### Restore Hope plan for Maine

Continued from Page 4

"The ballot initiative is a powerful tool," he said.

Another crucial goal of Operation Restore Hope will be to build LP affiliates, said Santini-Smith.

"Organizing by state senate district will have [an] important benefit," she said. "With party affiliates located in all corners of the state, the LP of Maine will be ready for political action at all levels. The party can start with small, local initiatives and build on those efforts."

Staples' itinerary will take him to Madawaska, Presque Isle, and Houlton on April 5; Kittery, Waterboro, and Sanford on April 12; Machias, Ellsworth, and Brewer on April 19 and so on for 12 weeks.

It will end in Augusta for a Freedom Rally on June 21, where the party is expected to announce a statewide anti-tax initiative.

For more information about the Maine LP's Operation Restore Hope, visit: www.lpme.org.



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tained dictators like Hussein and begin to focus on the most clear and present threat — that of terrorist groups on the United States.'

■ In New Mexico, a half dozen Libertarians joined about 130 antiwar demonstrators in Farmington on February 15, said Knight.

'I was one of the speakers, so [I] got a little Libertarian spin otherwise unheard in the mostly leftist crowd," he said.

In his remarks, Knight said, "Being against starting a war is not anti-American. It's not Saddam that I'm concerned about, it's America.

"If we start a war, we lose something of ourselves. And I'm not against our troops. I admire them, and feel for them — and I want them home safely."

■ (Right) Santa Clara County Libertarians hold a sign — and tout their "No Draft" position at a previous rally in Stanford, California on January 16.





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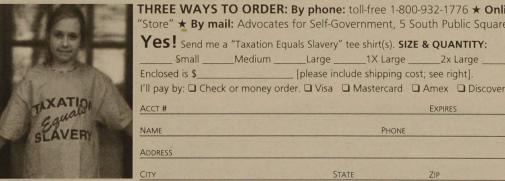
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#### TALKING POINTS

### RICO takes a well-deserved hit, and Congress gets a BCRA shock

N THE 1980S,

the U.S. supported

Saddam [Hussein]'s

regime. American

exports helped launch

Iraq's biological

weapons program.

[For example], The Station in

The events in Rhode Island were

Rhode Island had plenty of exits, but

people — understandably in a mass

panic — didn't choose them wisely.

horrible beyond words. In a world of

24-hour commentary, there's always

a rush for a lesson to be learned. The

real tragedy is that sometimes there

aren't any overarching lessons or so-

lutions that can definitively prevent

REASON.COM, February 24, 2003

The World Health Organization

reported last year that over-nutrition

is quickly overtaking under-nutrition

as an international health disaster.

such tragedies from recurring.

- Brian Doherty

Crisis du jour

- ELLEN RUPPEL SHELL

The Boston Globe

February 17, 2003

Saddam's friend

#### ■ The 2% difference

The American Survey asked "of all the challenges and problems facing our nation, how many can the federal government solve?"

It turns out 18% of conservatives and 20% of liberals think the federal government can solve many or all of our problems.

- ALAN REYNOLDS The Washington Times January 29, 2003

#### Who raises taxes?

The New York Times recently reported that at least 24 states, 13 with Republican governors, are considering ways to raise taxes.

- JOAN VENNOCHI The Boston Globe February 25, 2002

#### Least useful bill

[In Oklahoma], State Sen. Ben Robinson introduced a bill to require restaurants serving barbecue meat to supply cloth napkins.

CHUCK SHEPARD News of the Weird February 16, 2003

#### ■ Intelligence = safety

The safety record of small-club [pyrotechnic displays] was changed irrevocably [in February] when the Station in West Warwick, Rhode Island, went up in flames, killing 97 people, thanks to a pyro display by the rock band Great White.

The club and band are now engaged in a game of hot potato, with the band claiming they got approval to use the pyro and the club saying they had no idea. It would be fair to say that whoever is responsible is guilty of mass manslaughter, but that's for the courts to decide.

USA Today ran a history of nightclub tragedies. Consideration of the circumstances of past nightclub tragedies helps show that there are no hard-and-fast lessons about safety regulations to be learned from this tragedy.

Legal requirements — especially given the inherent limitations in time, attention, and honesty of the human beings enforcing them — are never enough to ensure safety, and are probably the least part of what safety we have in an inherently hazardous world. Most such safety comes from intelligence and care on the part of human beings.

ate Banking Committee report and

They showed that Iraq was allowed to purchase batch after batch of lethat pathogens — anthrax, botulism, E. coli, West Nile fever, gas gangrene, dengue fever. At a time when Washington knew that Iraq was using chemical weapons to kill thousands of Iranian troops, the CDC was shipping germ cultures directly to the

- JEFF JACOBY March 3, 2003

to make conspiracy indictments of mobsters easier. From day one, it was obvious that someone would use the law to hammer political opponents. The inducements were high — the chance to smear adversaries as racketeers and the tripling of damages

years in a federal prison.

RICO is a ghastly law. Two minor illegalities committed over a 10-year period can trigger a RICO application.

tarian regime and showed little concern for its victims. American exports helped launch Iraq's biological weap-

All of this has long been a matter of public record. U.S. shipments of deadly biological agents to Iraq, for example, were detailed in a 1994 Sen-

a follow-

up letter from the Centers for Disease Control in 1995.

Iraqi weapons facility in al-Muthanna.

The Boston Globe

Sanity on RICO

After 17 years of litigation, the Supreme Court ruled [in late February] that anti-abortion protesters can't be punished as racketeers under the loosely worded and maddeningly vaque Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO).

Congress passed the law in 1970 awarded by juries.

Criminal acts deserve punishment, but RICO allowed low-level offenses to be lumped together as a broad conspiracy. People who join sit-ins or blockades or who lie down in front of [abortion] clinics may expect to spend a night in jail. Under RICO, they stood to lose their homes and spend

G. Robert Blakey, a law professor at Notre Dame, says that if one protester trespasses on the grass and another protester in another city throws a rock through a window nine years later, constitutionally protected demonstrating could be converted into "extortion" under RICO.

Groups across the political spectrum got the point and filed briefs backing the abortion protesters. They included PETA and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

As the ACLU once pointed out, if RICO had been written a decade earlier, segregationists could have used it to quash the civil rights movement. - JOHN LEO

Universal Press Syndicate March 3, 2003

#### Dictators at work

Since being elected president of [Turkmenistan], Saparmurad Niyazov has developed a personality cult that would be comical if it were not accompanied by extreme repression. His picture is on all Turkmen money and his profile always appears in a corner of the TV screen. [He even] renamed the month of January after himself.

- DAVID WALLECHINSKY Parade Magazine February 16, 2003

#### ■ Well, we knew

The New York Times reports that [U.S. House member] Robert Matsui was "surprised by [the] fine print" in the McCain-Feingold campaign finance law. Matsui confesses, "I didn't realize what all was in it.'

Well, how could he have known? It's a complicated piece of legislation. You didn't expect him to actually read the bill prior to voting for it, did you?

Sixty senators and 240 representatives voted for McCain-Feingold, a.k.a. Shays-Meehan, a.k.a. the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act. Surely at least some of them knew what all

Maybe not. In a story that is simultaneously hilarious and appalling, the Times describes how members of Congress are only now discovering, to their dismay, the requirements of the campaign finance restrictions they enacted almost a year ago.

'We sometimes leave our audiences in a state of complete shock," says a lawyer who teaches the intricacies of McCain-Feingold. His seminars elicit "a sort of slack-jawed amazement."

That's a pretty good description of the average American's reaction upon learning that his elected representatives can't be troubled to familiarize themselves with the laws they pass. Instead they vote for a general idea, leaving the details to be worked out by agencies and the courts.

It's only fair that members of Congress are now experiencing some of the fear and uncertainty they routinely impose on the rest of us. The Times reports that "members of both parties have been startled" to learn that McCain-Feingold violations are felonies carrying penalties of up to five years in prison.

Under McCain-Feingold, it turns out, actions that seem innocent speaking at a fundraising event, letting your name appear on an invitation — can be construed as felonies.

Who knew? Unfortunately, that is not a rhetorical question.

- JACOB SULLUM

The Washington Times February 24, 2003

#### Sticker shock

There's something about bad ideas and Washington that go together. So expect a smooth ride for the Freedom CAR — a new Bush initiative that proposes to spend \$1.7 billion on the development of a hydrogenpowered car.

"If you're interested in our environment, let us promote hydrogenfuel cells as a way to advance into the 21st century," President Bush said in a speech that hyped the Freedom CAR program.

What Bush didn't say is that the Freedom CAR easily could produce nothing but high bills, if history is an indicator.

You see, Freedom CAR is a reincarnation of a bad Clinton program, the Partnership for a New Generation of Vehicles (PNGV), instituted in 1993. At a cost to taxpayers of \$1.5 billion, the PNGV partnered with American automobile manufacturers to develop an affordable family car that gets 80 miles per gallon.

You never saw that car. The Big Three automakers and your \$1.5 billion didn't deliver that car, while Toyota and Honda developed hybrid cars — cars fueled by both electricity and gasoline — such as the Prius, which averages 50 miles a gallon.

As the National Taxpayers Union wrote, "Toyota can research, develop and market a successful hybrid car on its own, but General Motors requires subsidies from the government?" Gives you pause, doesn't it?

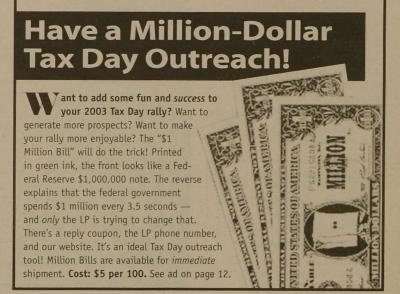
- DEBRA SAUNDERS TownHall.com March 3, 2003

### Miss Liberty's Guide to Film and Video

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supported Saddam [Hussein]'s totali-

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### Superior court judge joins Libertarian Party

Continued from Page 1

facing this great country, and our socalled War on Drugs [is] our biggest

In the book, Gray argues that the War on Drugs has not reduced the amount of illegal drugs available in the country; that it has eroded Americans' civil liberties; and that it makes drugs more dangerous.

As a solution, he advocates "realistic" education about the dangers of drugs, mandatory drug treatment, needle exchange programs, drug decriminalization, and the regulated sale of drugs.

Publishers Weekly said the book is "a scathing jeremiad against the war on drugs," and "provocative and topi-

The book's quality "and the sensible passion of Gray's conclusions will make this a crucial reference for politicians, voters, activists, and law enforcement agencies seeking to reform established policy," said the review.

Gray said he wrote Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It — and is willing to publicly speak out against the War on Drugs — because of the threat posed by the nation's drug policies.

"Drug Prohibition has failed from every standpoint imaginable: unnec-

essary prison growth, increased taxes, increased crime and corruption here and abroad, loss of civil liberties, decreased health, [and] diversion of resources," he said.

"I could go on and on. Much of what I see as a judge brings a tear to my eye. The drug war is destroying the fabric of society."

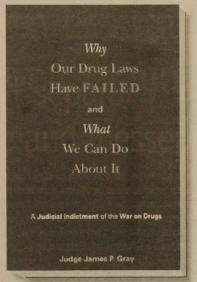
In fact, Gray said he took his antidrug war position not because he advocates using drugs — but because he is so opposed to them.

#### Dangerous drugs

"I hate drugs so much that I want to change our policy so that we can reduce drug usage and the other harms these dangerous drugs are causing," he said. "These drugs could not be made more available than they are under our present system. We can't even keep them out of our prisons, much less off our streets."

Gray was appointed to the Orange County Superior Court by Governor George Deukmejian in 1983, and was re-elected in 1990, 1996, and 2002. Previously, he had served as a judge on the Santa Ana Municipal Court.

He was the winner of the "Judge of the Year" award in 1992 from the Business Litigation Section of the Orange County Bar Association.



■ Judge James Gray's Why Our Drug Laws Have Failed and What We Can Do About It, is "a scathing jeremiad against the war on drugs," said Publisher's Weekly.

In 1998, Gray was a candidate for U.S. House in the Republican primary, losing to former Congressman Robert

A U.S. Navy veteran, Gray also served in the Peace Corps in Costa Rica for two years and worked as an adjunct professor at Chapman University. He received an undergraduate degree from UCLA in 1966 and a Juris Doctor from the University of Southern California in 1971.

Gray is married and has three children. He a resident of Newport Beach,

### California Libertarians: Recall Gov. Gray Davis

Continued from Page 1

speech that inspired much applause and cheers" from the crowd.

"I declared that Libertarians support the recall because of the threat Davis poses to our liberty, wallet, and way of life," she said.

The event, attended by about 350 people, also featured speakers from the Republican and American Independent parties, as well as representatives of the National Tax Limitation Committee, the Republican Liberty Caucus, and the California Black Republican Caucus.

On February 25, the East San Gabriel Valley (Region 67) LP also passed a resolution endorsing Davis's

The effort to recall Davis was initiated by the People's Advocate, a bipartisan tax-watchdog and "good government" group.

The campaign is being coordinated by the Recall Gray Davis Comutility bills in the nation; and he has been "selling the government for campaign [donations]." Once the recall petition language is approved by the secretary of state's office, supporters will have 160 days to collect signatures.

mittee, which said it wants to oust

the governor because Davis lied about

the state budget crisis to get re-

elected in 2002; he lied about his

plans to raise taxes; he was largely

responsible for the state's electricity

crisis of 2001, and his actions caused

state residents to pay the highest

Recall election

If the drive is successful, the recall election could be held in late 2003, or at the same time as the March 2004 local elections.

If Davis is recalled, voters will be asked to choose a successor from a list of candidates on the recall ballot. The winner of that vote would serve out the rest of Davis's four-year

The last successful recall drive in California was in 1986, when voters turned three state supreme court justices out of office.

For information about the "Recall Governor Gray Davis" effort, visit: www.recallgraydavis.com.

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he transition from a Soviet slave col-I ony to a market economy in the Baltic States is one of the world's best-kept secrets. Indeed, Estonia has been rated #4 in the world for economic freedoms and the other Baltic states (Latvia and Lithuania) are hot on their heels. At their present rate they may soon surpass the United States in the freedom index.

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Andrei Illarionov (Russia) - chief economic advisor to Russian president Vladimir Putin.

Mart Laar (Estonia) - former Prime Minister of Estonia.

Yuri Maltsev - former advisor to Russian president Mikhail Gorbachev - now teaching Austrian economics in the US.

cial opposition party in Belarus and CEO of a free-market think tank in Minsk. A long time Objectivist, he introduced Andrei Illarionov to the Russian version of Ayn Rand's Atlas Shrugged (a project initially launched with the help of ISIL in

Other speakers in our kaleidoscope of movement luminaries, include:

•Dean Ahmad (USA)
•Alphonse Crespo, M.D. (Switzerland)

•Algirdas Degutis (Lithuania) •Louis James (Free-Market.net CEO)

•Elena Leontjeva (Lithuania) Christian Michel (Switzerland/England)

•Prof. Jan Narveson (Canada)

·Mary Ruwart (USA)

•Ken Schoolland (USA) •Remigijus Simasius (Lithuania)

Doug den Uyl (USA)

•Ramunas Vilpisauskas (Lithuania) ·Plus many more to be announced.

Also included in the conference package is an evening concert at Trakai Castle (see photo above), a visit to "Stalin World," a theme park chronicling the hor-Jaroslav Romanchuk - VP of the offi-rors of communism; an opening reception

(July 6th) and a closing gala banquet (July 10). Checkout is in the AM of July 11th.

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This tour leaves from the conference hotel on the morning of the 11th and returns on the evening of the 14th of July. Price is a bargain at only \$549. (shared). It includes, travel, hotel accommodations, meals and admission to all attractions

NOTE: Periodic updates on the conference will be posted on the ISIL website: http:// www.isil.org. Or you can get them by signing up for the FREE FMNews, published by Free-Market.net (now a division of ISIL).

This conference is hosted by the Lithuanian Free Market Institute and co-sponsored by the Libertarian International and Libertarian Alliance-UK

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#### **AFFILIATE NEWS**

# Libertarians condemn excessive police force, defend homeschoolers, and quiz Congressman

#### COLORADO

### State LP raps police for gassing antiwar protest

The Colorado LP blasted the Colorado Springs police for using excessive force during a peaceful anti-war protest.

On February 15, police used tear gas, rubber bullets, and riot gear to disperse people who were marching to show opposition to a war with Iraq, charged Colorado LP Public Information Director **Mike Seebeck**.

"It is utterly outrageous that a peace rally ended with violence being instigated against peaceful protesters," he said.

The demonstration, organized by the Pike's Peak Justice and Peace Commission, drew about 3,000 people, including members of the Colorado LP. It was one of about 200 rallies that day in the USA to protest the looming war with Irag.

According to reports, Colorado Springs police attacked protesters without provocation as they were crossing a blocked-off street. Two people were injured and treated at local hospitals.

"It is utterly outrageous that the Colorado Springs Police Department reacts with violence instead of proper respect for the people they are charged with serving," said Seebeck. "These acts were deliberate, and justice is required."

#### ■ ILLINOIS

### Court's midwife ruling limits parents' freedom

A court decision that gives the state government the power to prevent midwives from handling home births is an attack on the rights of parents, the state LP has charged.

On February 21, the Illinois Supreme Court ruled that the Illinois Department of Professional Regulation (IDPR) can ban lay midwives who are not trained as nurses.

Illinois LP Executive Director **Jef-frey Trigg** said the decision illustrates "why we are Libertarians."

"The Illinois Supreme Court has ruled parents are not free to follow their religious or personal beliefs on how they want to give birth to their children," he said.

The court decision will allow the IDPR to seek a court order barring midwife Yvonne Cryns from practicing her occupation.

Although she had successfully handled hundreds of home births, Cryns was charged on two counts of involuntary manslaughter when a baby died in 2000. She was acquitted on one charge, and the jury deadlocked on the other.





#### North Carolina Libertarian makes appeal for MS charity walk

■ North Carolina Libertarian Jennifer Medlock (left) addresses the Guilford County Commission on February 6, inviting them to join the county LP's new Multiple Sclerosis Society walking team.

The team, which will participate in a local MS Walk on April 13, will raise money for multiple sclerosis research, said Medlock.

"I want to invite everyone to join us for a bout of good exercise and political discussion — no matter how you vote," she told the commissioners.

Right: After her presentation, Medlock, an LP candidate for N.C. State House in 2002, holds up her seven-year-old daughter Racheal Schulz, giving her a first taste of politics.

Medlock later said she started the walking team because her mother suffers from multiple sclerosis, and "I wanted to do more volunteer work after November's election. [Also], this team is a really great way for the party to get publicity. We are allowed to wear our own shirts during the walk and even carry a banner. It's a great idea for other LP groups!"

To make a donation to the Guilford County Libertarian Party's MS walking team, visit: www.gclp.org/ms.

#### ■ INDIANA

### Libertarians: Release charter school funds

The General Assembly should change state law to give charter schools money at the beginning of the year — because such a reform would give students an "opportunity to go to schools that best suit their needs."

"Considering the ongoing abject failure of Indiana's government schools to educate our children, the legislature's interference with opening education to competition is unconscionable," said **Sam Goldstein**, who ran as the Libertarian candidate for superintendent of public instruction in 2002.

In February, Goldstein urged lawmakers to change a law that withholds funding for charter schools until midyear, instead giving schools money at the start of the year.

Charter schools are governmentrun schools that have more flexibility in curriculum than their traditional counterparts. Eleven charter schools opened in Indiana this year.

"Libertarians trust families to choose the school that works best for

their children," said Goldstein. "Let parents — not politicians and special-interest groups — decide which school is best for their children."

#### IOWA

### LP member starts PAC to elect state legislators

A Libertarian has formed a new political action committee to help LP candidates get elected in Iowa.

Rich Moroney, who is also a member of the LP Judicial Committee, started the Iowa Libertarian Legislature Fund (ILLF) in November 2002 to try to move the state in "a more libertarian direction."

"In the short term, we hope for better election results [so] we can make our case that we're a growing political force," he said. "In the longer term, we hope to start electing legislators. In either event, we hope to move Iowa legislation in a more libertarian direction."

The ILLF hopes to raise \$10,000 by 2004 to finance campaigns, said Moroney — and that money could have a significant impact since many major-party legislative candidates spend only \$25,000 to get elected.

Money will be given to Iowa candidates with the best chance of winning, and funding decisions will be made by Moroney, the Iowa LP State Chair, and another LP member yet to be chosen.

The PAC has also started a website — www.ILLF.org — which will have information to help potential candidates, said Moroney. The website can accept out-of-state donations.

#### ■ MASSACHUSETTS

### Congressman faces war, BCRA questions from LP

State Libertarians peppered a Democratic Congressman with tough questions when he hosted a town meeting in Billerica.

At the event on February 23, U.S. Rep. Martin Meehan (5th District) was confronted by **Ilana Freedman**, who ran against him in 2002.

At the microphone, Freedman asked: "Why, last October, did you vote to give the authority to the president to declare war?"

Meehan defended his vote, saying war with Iraq is "the last resort."

Meehan was also interrogated by Libertarian **James Perry**, who asked about the Bipartisan Campaign Finance, Reform Act (BCRA), which prohibits minors from making contributions to political parties.

"I have always been an avid political activist," he said. "Why did you violate the Constitution you swore to uphold and why did you make it even harder for America's youth to find something worthwhile to do with their time and energy?"

Meehan said BCRA "makes a bad system better."

#### **MICHIGAN**

#### Want to discriminate? Then privatize, says LP

If the University of Michigan wants to keep discriminating on the basis of race, it should privatize, says the Washtenaw County LP.

"If the university insists on having a race-based admissions policy, it has the moral obligation to stop accepting public funds," said county Chair **Brett Cashman** in January.

"Every private organization should be able to decide for themselves who gets admitted, without government interference. But tax-payer-funded entities have an obligation not to discriminate, because every taxpayer is forced to subsidize such discrimination."

The University of Michigan is being sued for its "affirmative action" program, which favors minorities over white students. The Supreme Court will hear the case this summer.

However, the university could end the dispute by dropping its colorcoded admissions policy — or by privatizing, said Cashman.

"Every university should be free to choose its own admissions policy, without government interference," he said. "A college that wants to craft a policy to exclude a particular group should be free to do that, so long as public money isn't involved."

#### ■ MONTANA

### State Chair: Don't force tests on homeschoolers

Parents, not mandatory government tests, are the best way to en-

#### 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]

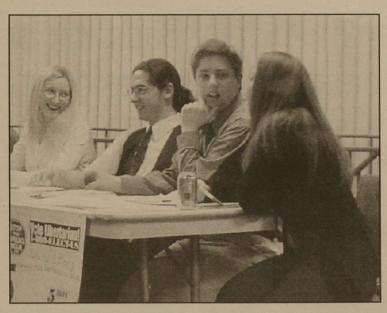
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#### Libertarians in three-way college debate

■ College Libertarians (l-r) LeeAnn Palubinsky, Andreas Saint-Laurent, Aaron Biterman, and Molly DeFelice debate College Democrats and Republicans at American University in Washington, DC.

The debate, held March 1 before an audience of about 70 people at the Letts Formal Lounge, focused on economic policy.

During the sometimes contentious debate, the Democrats defended former President Bill Clinton's record, the Republicans endorsed President George W. Bush's economic policies, and the Libertarians argued that the government should play a minimal role in the economy.

"We've let the government try to fix our problems for more than 60 years and it has not worked," said Biterman, the president of American University's College Libertarians.

The three teams' arguments roused their various partisan supporters in the crowd, who were "cheering their side on with gusto," according to the *American University Eagle*.

sure that home-schooled children get a good education.

That's what LP State Chair **Mike** Fellows told the Senate Education and Cultural Resources Committee in testimony in Helena on February 10.

The bill Fellows spoke against — SB 276 — was filed by State Senator Don Ryan (District 22). It would have required standardized tests for all home-schooled children. Currently, parents only have to sign a form saying their home-schooled children are getting an appropriate education.

Fellows told the committee: "Education is important, but parents are responsible for the education of their kids. Parents [should be able] to educate their children with their values — and not a values system that's dictated by government officials."

Although dozens of citizens testified against SB 276 at the public hearing, "we were the only party to object to this bill," said Fellows.

The bill was defeated in committee with only State Senator Ryan voting for it.

#### ■ NEW HAMPSHIRE

### Candidates launch joint effort for Keene council

Two young candidates for office are planning to run a combined campaign for Keene city council.

Michelle Otterson and James Maynard will be seeking seats on the 15-member, nonpartisan council, and plan to "share advertising, campaigning and planning" for the election, said Maynard.

"[We] are beginning to lay the groundwork necessary for winning bids for the city council," he said. "[We] are planning an aggressive marketing campaign to bring home the votes on November 4th."

The integrated campaign expects to attract support from "moderate, middle-of-the-road voters" by focusing on taxpayer issues, said Maynard.

Both have run for office before: Otterson was a candidate for state representative in 2000 and won almost 10% of the vote, while Maynard ran for Keene city council in 2001, earning 21% of the vote.

In 1999, while students at Keene State College, Otterson and Maynard formed Libertarians on Campus at Keene State, the college's first Libertarian group.

For information about the campaign, visit: www.monadnocklibs.org.

### ■ NEW HAMPSHIRE State party plans event to entice Free Staters

Calling all Porcupines: Come to New Hampshire!

That's the message the Granite State LP is broadcasting to members of the Free State project who are part of the Northern New England Porcupines group.

The New Hampshire LP is hoping to convince Free State members about the "benefits and advantages of choosing N.H. as the free state," said **Rich Tomasso**, who is coordinating the state LP's Welcome to the Granite State Committee.

"The committee is eager to show off our beautiful state to Free State Project members," he said. "[It will be] a week of fun, relaxation, information sharing, and new friendships."

The "Escape to New Hampshire" getaway vacation is scheduled for

June 21-29 at Rogers Camping Resort and Motel in Lancaster, near the White Mountain region.

The Free State project is a national effort to convince 20,000 libertarians to move to one state, so they can exert their combined voting power to move that state in a freedom-oriented direction. A final destination state has not been selected, and a number of states are lobbying to be chosen.

For information about the "Escape to New Hampshire" project, e-mail: fsp-nh@lpnh.org.

#### ■ NEW MEXICO

### Libertarians, Greens ally to fight bad ballot bill

State Libertarians joined with the Green Party to oppose an "anti-democracy" bill that would make it more difficult for third parties to get and stay on the ballot.

On February 16, the parties released a joint statement condemning HB 628, which was introduced by Speaker of the House, Ben Lujan (D).

The bill would eliminate a provision in state law that allows a party to gain "major party" status by winning 5% of the votes cast in a statewide election. It would also boost by 3,000% the number of registered voters needed to qualify as a major party — from 0.33% to 10%.

The bill is an attack by the Republicans and Democrats on their smaller-party rivals, said LP State Chair Joseph Knight.

"If anyone other than Democrats or Republicans show any success, they simply change the rules," he said. "This anti-democracy legislation would guarantee the Democrat and Republican parties two-party rule."

Libertarians and Greens vowed to work together to kill HB 628.

### ■ NORTH CAROLINA State LP lobbies against third-party filing fee

The state party has launched a lobbying effort to scuttle a bill that would impose a filing fee on thirdparty candidates.

House Bill 43, entitled "New Party Filing Fee," was filed in February by Rep. John Rayfield (R-Gaston) and has 37 co-sponsors.

The bill is "obviously a hostile effort to keep Libertarian candidates off the ballot," charged state Executive Director **Sean Haugh**.

H43 would prevent smaller parties from nominating candidates at a convention. Instead, they would have to pay the same filing fee as major party candidates, while continuing to submit petitions.

Currently, major party candidates must pay a filing fee equal to 1% of the annual salary of the office they are seeking. Since the governor earns about \$110,000, the filing fee for that one office would be \$1,100.

"This is clearly a double standard, as our competition has never had to petition to get on the ballot," said Haugh. "North Carolina is already one of the most restrictive states in the country when it comes to ballot access barriers. [Politicians] need to lower ballot access barriers, not create new ones."

#### **■ SOUTH CAROLINA**

### Clemsen reverses ruling limiting campaign signs

In an about-face to an about-face, the Clemson City Council has honored a deceased LP candidate's wishes, and will allow office-seekers to post political signs more than 30 days before an election.

Just two weeks after it rejected such a reform, the city council on February 18 voted to amend its current law, which prohibits such signs. However, they left open the option of adding other restrictions later.

The proposal had been pioneered by State House (District 3) candidate **Carl Lindenmeyer**, who had chided the city about the sign ordinance before suffering a fatal heart attack in September 2002.

Lindenmeyer said the ordinance, which prohibited campaign signs more than 30 days prior to Election Day, violated his free speech rights.

Council members said they changed the law because they feared a lawsuit over the constitutionality of the 30-day limit.

Pickens County LP Chair **Peter**Newell said the vote was "a step for-

ward," but said he was still concerned the city council might "still apply new restrictions."

#### ■ VIRGINIA

### LP student wins right to carry concealed gun

A Libertarian student has overturned a college policy that prohibited concealed weapons on campus.

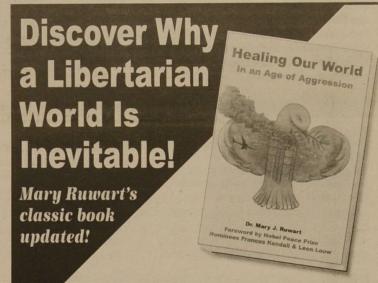
In February, Blue Ridge Community College announced it would amend its anti-gun policy after the Virginia Attorney General's office ruled that the policy was superseded by the state's concealed carry law.

The decision was a victory for Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Libertarian Party (HRLP) Chair **Dave Briggman**, a student at the college.

According to the school's old policy, no weapons were allowed unless carried by law enforcement officers or for instructional purposes.

Briggman complained to the school administrators, who agreed to abide by the Virginia Attorney General's decision.

Briggman has a concealed handgun permit, issued by a circuit court judge of Rockingham County.



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#### **POLITICS 2003**

#### Liberal Party RIP, and a Savage admission

- In New Jersey, four candidates have announced they will seek election in 2003: John Taylor (Highlands Borough Council), Bob Hull (State Assembly, 11th District), Dan Karlan (State Assembly, 39th District), and Len Flynn (Monmouth County Freeholder). In South Carolina, Laird Minor announced his candidacy for a special election for State House (District 27). In Massachusetts, Arthur Torrey has filed to run for Billerica Town Meeting Member. In California, Michael Denny is running for San Francisco mayor. In Florida, Bruce Wechsler has filed to run in a special election for State House (District 30).
- Miscellaneous: In Virginia, the Patrick Henry Supper Club celebrated its 10th anniversary on February 3. The dinner-and-speaker event has taken place every month in Richmond since 1993. In California, Libertarians Anthony Gregory and Serenity Wang will teach a class at the University of California (Berkeley) this Spring. The class, "America: Liberty, Discourse, and the State," will "explore the discourse surrounding American liberty and American politics," said Gregory. The class is part of the DeCal Program (Democratic Education at Cal.).
- Political News: In New York, the Liberal Party, one of America's longest-lasting third parties, is now defunct. The party's 2002 gubernatorial candidate won fewer than 50,000 votes, losing it a spot on the ballot. As a result, the party was "put to rest," said the party chairman. Formed in 1944, the left-wing, New York-only party usually cross-nominated a Democrat for governor, earning it ongoing ballot access and access to patronage jobs.
- In Florida, Doug Klippel was elected new State Chair. In Massachusetts, Rich Aucoin was elected Chair of the Waltham Libertarian Committee. In Washington state, Larey McLaren was elected Chair of the Snohomish County LP, while Lowell Dietz was elected Chair of the Kitap LP. In Texas, Sharon Blanding has been appointed Chairman pro tempore of the Comal County LP.
- Election news: In Illinois, R. Scott Bludorn, who is running for village trustee in Buffalo Grove, has been endorsed by National Taxpayers United Illinois and the Family Taxpayers Network. In Wisconsin, in a three-way race for Brown County executive on February 18, Roy Leyendecker won 1,445 votes (8%). In Indiana, Floyd County LP Chair Grace Martin has been named as the Libertarian Party's representative to the Floyd County Clerk's Election Task Force. In Delaware, John Reda is running for City Council in Elsmere. The election is in April.



R. Scott Bludorn: Endorsed by two groups.

- In Illinois, three Libertarians are running for school board: Alma Read (Cook County), Jeff Glaser (Kane County), and David Kelley (Rockford). Also in Illinois, Jerry Kohn is a candidate for Library Board (Cook County), Jim Syler is running for Carbondale City Council, John Nickels is a candidate for Cook Memorial Public Library (Lake County), and Kathy Kelley will be on the ballot for Rock Valley Community College Trustee (Rockford).
- Media news: Gary Nolan, former radio talk show host and candidate for the 2004 LP presidential nomination, appeared on C-SPAN's Road to the White House on March 2. The cable network broadcast his speech at the 2003 California LP convention. A Libertarian Party oped opposing U.S. military action in Iraq was printed in the March 4 Orange County Register (circulation: 420,000). Harry Browne's radio show — heard on 40 stations of the Radio America network — has expanded to two hours. For details, visit: www.HarryBrowne.org. We're not sure why, but Michael Savage, the ultra-conservative host of the nationally syndicated Savage Nation radio talk show — heard on 300 stations — has announced, "On a sexual level, I'm a libertarian."
- In Oklahoma, Christopher Powell was elected new State Chair. In Virginia, Dave Briggman was elected Chair of the newly formed Harrisonburg-Rockingham County LP. In Illinois, Rhys Read was elected new State Chair. In Tennessee, Joey King was elected Chair of the Rutherford County LP. In Utah, Charlie Bonsall has been hired as the new state executive director.
- Miscellaneous: At the Illinois LP convention on March 4, Mike Ginsberg was honored with the Bushell Award For Eternal Vigilance, Jim Young was named Activist Of The Year, and Jerry Kohn picked up the Rookie Of The Year trophy. In California, Libertarians are mourning the death of Joe Fuhrig, who died of a heart attack on March 3. Fuhrig, who taught economics at Golden Gate University in San Francisco, was the state LP's candidate for governor in 1986. He was also on the Board of Directors for the Advocates for Self Government.

### Texas Libertarian Michael Badnarik is seeking LP nomination for president

nounced that he will seek the LP's nomination for president. Austin resident Michael Badnarik formally jumped into the presidential race with a press conference on the steps of the state Capitol on February 8, saying he would work to "light the flames of liberty one heart

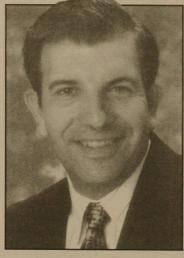
Badnarik, 48, who has twice run for State Representative, said he decided to launch his presidential campaign after his friends told him he has a "unique ability to explain the Libertarian philosophy in a way that makes sense to people."

#### Heart and soul

"My initial reaction was refusal because I thought the idea of moving into the White House was preposterous," he said. "Eventually my friends convinced me that this campaign, like my two attempts for Texas State Representative, were primarily forums to educate the public about the Constitution. Once I began thinking of this as an educational opportunity, I put my heart and soul into the campaign.

Badnarik said he plans to win the LP's nomination with "long hours and lots of hard work." Starting in March, he will embark on a three-month trip to visit as many state LP conventions as possible, and he has already spoken at the State Chair's conference in Texas on February 22-23.

"My campaign motto is 'Lighting



Michael Badnarik: Friends say he has a "unique ability to explain Libertarian philosophy in a way that makes sense to people."

the fires of Liberty, one heart at a time,' and it underscores my plan to talk to as many people as I can — on a one-on-one basis," he said.

If he wins the LP's nomination, Badnarik said he would "immediately challenge the Republican and Democratic candidates to a national debate. They will ignore me, of course; however I think the public will realize our country would be better served by the free expression of ideas."

During his campaign, Badnarik said he will also work to "teach people the difference between rights and privileges," and hopes to "earn at least 2 million votes."

"I think that there is an increasing level of anxiety among the general public that stems from a growing distrust of the government," he said. "People sense that something is wrong, but they can't quite put their finger on it. I sincerely believe that the 2004 election is going to be a watershed event, and that the time is right for the party to win a significant percentage of the vote."

#### Campaign strategy

Badnarik said it "is too early in the campaign to decide what issues I should focus on. I haven't even left Texas, yet. I'm sure that by the time we arrive in Atlanta, Georgia for the national convention, I will have a much better idea of what my campaign strategy should be."

In a three-way race for state legislature (District 48) in 2002, Badnarik won 1,075 votes (2.2%). In 2000, he won 16.9% in a two-way race.

Professionally, Badnarik is a computer programmer. He has previously worked as a senior software engineer at a nuclear power plant and as a senior trainer for Evolutionary Technologies International.

In his spare time, Badnarik has been an Advanced First Aid instructor, a skydiver, and a Scoutmaster. He is married and has three grown children.

For more information about the campaign, visit: www.Badnarik.org. Or write: Badnarik for President, P.O. Box 841, Buda, TX 78610.



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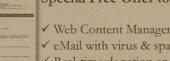
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# Georgia LP fights tax

Continued from Page 3 face of public pressure.

If approved by the legislature, the Perdue tax increases would cost Georgia taxpayers about \$490 million over the next 18 months.

Some state residents seem surprised that Perdue proposed such a massive tax increase, said Forren, since the Republican ran for office as a "fiscal conservative." But, in fact, it's not unexpected, he said.

"It should surprise no one — but disappoint everyone — that Perdue has already started proposing tax increases," he said. "The Republican governor is calling for a tax increase, while the old Democratic leadership [is] against tax increases. Our problem is that the party in power always seems to do the same old thing — increase government spending."

Perdue said he is being forced to raise taxes because state revenue is falling, but Georgia actually faces a fiscal crisis because government spending has exploded over the past decade, said Forren.

#### Outpaced inflation

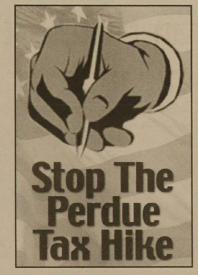
"In the last 10 years, and excluding the [state-run] lottery, growth in Georgia government spending has outpaced inflation to the tune of \$2 billion," he said. "It needs to end now. The current budget crisis is caused by overspending, not under-taxing."

To combat the proposed tax hike, the www.404-Freedom.com site allows Georgia residents to e-mail a prepared letter to their state legislator.

The letter states: "I, the undersigned resident of Georgia, want to stop the Perdue Tax Hike. I implore you, my state legislators, to vote against any tax or fee increases.

"Most importantly, I ask that you focus on actually reducing government spending, in order to solve the





current financial crisis in Georgia, and to make sure that this kind of thing is much less likely in the future. Don't raise taxes, cut spending instead."

Signers can also add personal comments to the letter.

The petition is an opportunity for Georgia voters who are "tired of the same old non-responsive rhetoric coming out of the Capitol," said Forren. "We must put a stop to this. We must stop the Perdue Tax Hike."

Libertarian Garrett Michael Hayes, who had run for governor against Perdue in 2002, also criticized the Republican's proposed tax hike.

"It looks like it's taxpayer flambé," he said. "Their budgets stay safe and our dollars go up in smoke."

# Troy county LP files drug slander lawsuit

Continued from Page 3 tions were clearly and demonstrably false, said the county LP's communications director, Greg Dirasian.

"Ms. Pappageorge has shown reckless disregard for the truth, and we take this matter seriously," he said.

"The very web page she distributed clearly states our view that the law should be used to protect citizens against force and fraud, and not in an effort to protect individuals from themselves. Nowhere does it say that we believe it's okay to use drugs. This is a slanderous misrepresentation of our position, and we intend to fight it."

Oakland County LP Chair Nathan Allen echoed that point.

#### **Repeal Prohibition**

"Libertarians are second to no one in our concern about the plague of drug abuse," he said. "That's why our platform calls upon lawmakers to repeal Prohibition and end the failed War on Drugs. We certainly do not encourage people to break the law."

The lawsuit was not filed to help Howrylak — who is not a plaintiff — but "on behalf of Libertarians ev-

#### PAPPAGEORGE

"said Libertarians say
it's OK to do drugs.
We do not, nor does
our platform, nor do
we advocate any sort
of illegal activity."

erywhere," said Dirasian.

"This has nothing to do with the city council race," he said. "That election ought to stay focused on issues of concern to Troy residents, not on state laws that can only be changed in Lansing [the state capital].

"This action is being taken by our county party on behalf of Libertarians everywhere. Frankly, we've had enough of being slandered. We will no longer permit these derogatory allegations to go unchallenged."

Howrylak expressed some doubt about the lawsuit.

"I don't think it's a good idea to sue," he said. "It's a campaign, and things are said that may or may not be true or nice. But I don't know that a lawsuit is an appropriate way to deal with the issue."

Pappageorge later said her comments at the debate were not a personal attack on Howrylak.

"I don't think we said it wrong," she said. "I was simply voicing a concern for those who would be interested in legalizing drugs."

Dirasian dismissed that explana-

"This was so blatant a misrepresentation of our platform," he said. "She said Libertarians say it's OK to do drugs — and we do not, nor does our platform, nor do we advocate any sort of illegal activity."

In order to win the lawsuit, the Oakland County LP will have to prove that Pappageorge's statement was knowingly false, and was made with reckless disregard for the truth.

The lawsuit asks for \$10,000 in damages. It was filed by attorneys David Collver and Leonard Schwartz.

Pappageorge will receive official notice of the lawsuit from the court, and will have 21 days to respond before a pretrial date can be set.

The national LP's platform calls for a repeal of drug laws, but notes: "Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices."

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### LIBERTARIAN PARTY



### 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

A report on the party's goals, accomplishments, shortcomings, and finances in 2002

#### FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

### 2002: A tough year

hings have not gone well for any of us over the last year. I for one am glad that 2002 is behind us. Although 9/11 occurred months before the year began, our government furthered the injuries to America in 2002 by attacking the very principle on which our country was founded — the freedom of its people. In the name of security, the unprecedented violations of our liberties continue

even today. It's no wonder so many libertarians feel a loss of confidence in the struggle for freedom.

The economy has struggled to recover from the dotcom bust. Economists can debate whether or not we're in the midst of a recession, but all of

America knows that the economy is not in good shape. We in the Libertarian Party undoubtedly feel this pinch more than any other party, given the high percentage of "techies" in our midst, many of who are out of work.

Many of our major donors whose generosity has been humbling in the past saw much of their worth disappear as the markets collapsed. It's no surprise that much of their donations to the party disappeared as well.

Congress in its "wisdom" passed an insidious bill the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA), touted to root out corruption from politics. Instead, BCRA created a morass of idiotic legislation that even the Democrats and Republicans are now struggling to deal with. With the intent of removing corporate interests from politics, Congress instead bound the hands of political parties to CHAIR the extent that the new legislation in its explicit

**GEOFF NEALE** LP NATIONAL

wording forbids political parties from receiving money from any corporation, regardless of the reason, even if for a legitimate, non-political purpose.

We started 2002 with many hopes. The Strategic Plan developed by members of the LNC and other key Party members set the foundation for a brighter future. Staff started implementing specific sections of the Strategic Plan. The Plan is sound. The vision it provides is positive and growthoriented. However, to make it a reality, we need to nurture it with appropriate resources — resources that did not materialize.

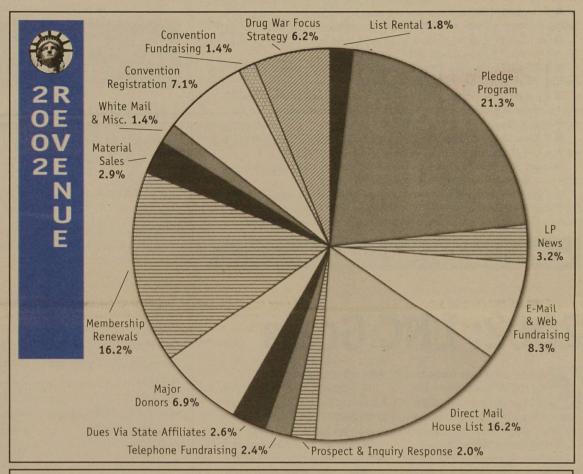
Although we set a budget that could be termed optimistic at the time of its creation, it became apparent by midyear that the correct term to describe it was unrealistic. Planned increases in revenues never materialized. Instead, they started diminishing.

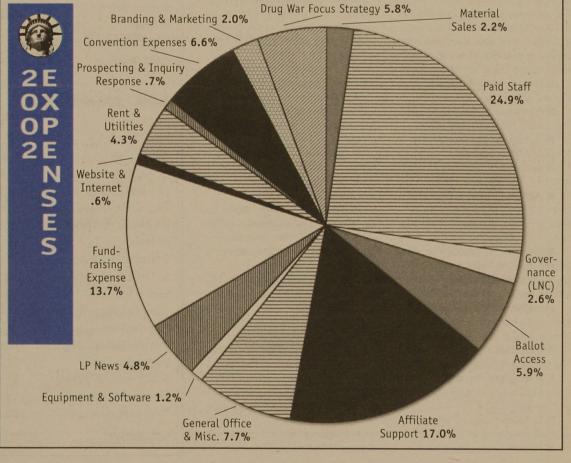
With perfect hindsight, it is obvious that we should have been cutting expenses early in the year. Instead, additional staff was added to implement portions of the Strategic Plan. Our staff levels peaked in early August, by which time it had become painfully obvious that we were in financial trouble. The Strategic Plan was not the problem; our timing was.

The 2002 Convention was supposed to be a "break-even" event. Early in the year it started to appear likely to lose money. Efforts were made to curtail costs, but they couldn't be cut enough to stave off a major loss. Attendance levels at the convention were quite low, and the problem worsened.

Looking back, it's easy to see why problems with the convention arose. The economic troubles kept many away. A considerable number of people did not come because of the pain of flying and the unwillingness to submit themselves to the indignity of the new "security procedures." No one could have foreseen these circumstances when the contracts for the 2002 convention were signed. No one could deny the impact once the convention was over.

We found ourselves in a deep financial hole. We've struggled since August See CHAIRMAN Page 14





### LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

#### ★ FROM THE NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

Continued from Page 13

to get out of this hole. We've cut staff to a near skeleton crew. We've had to defer Unified Membership Program payments to the state affiliates, thereby rippling the financial troubles of the National LP out to the states as well.

What does all this mean? Is this the beginning of the end for the Libertarian Party? Not hardly. We've weathered hard times before. We'll do it again.

We are in the midst of a downward cycle of membership and revenues. It's not the first. At least two times before in our history we fought our way through tough situations, only to emerge larger and stronger than ever before. We're going to do it again. How can I say that with confidence?

- We've turned the corner in our financial situation. Things are getting better, and we'll be back on a sound fiscal foundation within months.
- For all of the bad news, there's plenty of good news from 2002 to go around as well. I'll leave others to tell you about that.
- Although I've heard a lot of despair from many circles over the past few months, now I'm hearing even more resolve and determination.
- We made some mistakes last year, but now we're correcting them. I can't promise we won't make more mistakes in the future, but we will be working to make sure we don't repeat any.
- BCRA is insidious, but we're learning to work with it. It's a burden, but we won't let it stop us.

We need your help now. Help us by being part of the solution. Help out with your support, your donations, your activism.

One year from now you'll be reading about what kind of year 2003 was for the party. The difference between today and one year from now is up to you. You can help determine how much is bad news, and how much is good.

#### \* REVIEW OF 2002 GOALS

### 2002: LNC Goals

oals for 2002 were adopted by the LNC at its December 8-9, 2001 meeting as part of the Strategic Plan. In this multi-year plan, the term "goals" refers to six general continuing goals. "Metric" is used for specific numeric targets to be achieved or actions to be completed. The following are metrics adopted for 2002, with notes about how things actually turned out. Additional information may be found in the statement by the Chair, and in the graphs.

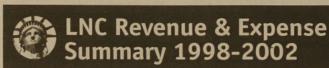
- Metric: 340 Libertarians in elected office.
- Outcome: At the end of 2002, there were 334 in elected office.
- Metric: 2,002 LP candidates for public office in 2002.
- Outcome: There were at least 1,711 LP candidates in 2002.
- Metric: At least 50% of the state affiliates provide data on at least 10 items relating to "core and critical activities."
- **Outcome:** Information on about 20 activities collected from 29 affiliates was presented at the State Chairs Conference held in February 2003.
- Metric: At least 12 affiliates with a written, active plan to close gaps in one or more critical items.
- Outcome: At the end of 2002, one affiliate reported such a plan.
- Metric: Develop a written agreement between state affiliates and the national LP.
- Outcome: Such an agreement was not developed in 2002.
  - Metric: Get feedback from

state chairs on several issues.

- **Outcome:** Feedback on these issues was requested and obtained at the State Chairs Conference held in February 2002.
- Metric: Grow dues-paying national membership to 35,000.
- Outcome: Dues-paying national membership dropped to 22,923 as of the end of the year.
- Metric: Achieve national LP revenue of \$3.3 million.
- Outcome: LP revenue for 2002 was approximately \$2.0 million.
- Metric: Increase the total number of people casting at least one vote for a Libertarian candidate, compared with four years earlier.
- **Outcome** At least 3.4 million people voted for a Libertarian in 2002. A comparable figure for 1998 was 2.5 million.
- Metric: At least 75 college and university campus Libertarian groups.
- Outcome: There were 88 campus Libertarian organizations as of December 2002.
- Metric: Complete a review of membership definition and certification requirements.
  - Outcome: Not completed.
- Metric: Complete a review of internal governance/election issues.
- Outcome: Not completed.
- Metric: Develop a formal improvement/feedback program to get feedback from members on how to improve the LP.
- Outcome: This was not developed in 2002.

### 1998-2002 LNC Balance Sheet Summary

DATE	12/31/98	12/31/99	12/31/00	12/31/01	12/31/02
Assets	\$571,606	\$680,016	\$723,523	\$679,165	\$502,611
Liabilities	\$550,483	\$523,349	\$473,345	\$496,133	\$616,186
Net Worth	\$21,123	\$156,667	\$250,178	\$183,032	(\$113,574)
Gain (Loss)	\$10,291	\$135,544	\$93,511	(67,146)	(\$296,606)



LNC Revenue	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Revenue: HQ Fundraising					
Direct Mail - House List	\$340,600	\$622,739	\$969,496	\$441,515	\$331,384
Pledge Program	\$493,601	\$493,811	\$502,661	\$479,545	\$435,217
Membership Renewals	\$335,277	\$434,822	\$443,710	\$409,745	\$331,402
Major Donors	\$110,584	\$166,518	\$292,003	\$74,665	\$141,900
Telephone Fundraising	\$99,331	\$72,427	\$135,793	\$83,347	\$49,912
Email/Web Fundraising Subtotal HQ	\$39,867	\$42,076	\$110,080	\$139,207	\$169,098
Fundraising Revenue	\$1,419,260	\$1,832,393	\$2,453,743	\$1,628,024	\$1,458,913
Other Revenue					
Convention Registration Fees	\$169,720	\$-	\$242,145	\$-	\$145,387
Convention Fundraising	\$29,387	\$-	\$130,034	\$-	\$28,930
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$513,451	\$439,459	\$229,285	\$116,664	\$41,255
Website	\$-	\$47,795	\$109,880	\$82,125	\$-
List Rental	\$18,664	\$21,760	\$87,562	\$39,559	\$36,583
Dues Via State Affiliates	\$86,138	\$95,372	\$84,396	\$75,240	\$53,588
White Mail & Misc	\$70,154	\$132,466	\$82,095	\$56,816	\$28,223
LP News	\$47,516	\$55,200	\$80,985	\$65,415	\$65,003
Material Sales	\$75,428	\$45,877	\$76,502	\$44,953	\$58,435
Contract Service/Prez Campaign	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$-	\$-	\$—	\$-	\$126,974
Subtotal Other Revenue	\$1,010,457	\$837,929	\$1,122,885	\$480,772	\$584,378
Total Revenue	\$2,429,716	\$2,670,322	\$3,576,627	\$2,108,796	\$2,043,291

**LNC Expenses** 

NET INCOME	\$(176,294)	\$90.933	\$110.317	(\$70,402)	(\$224.522)
Total Expenses	\$2,610,890	\$2,579,388	\$3,466,310	\$2,179,198	\$2,267,813
Branding & Marketing	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$44,509
Drug War Focus Strategy	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$-	\$130,720
Governance (LNC)	\$25,813	\$30,722	\$31,401	\$123,520	\$59,001
Website/Internet	\$2,977	\$49,609	\$33,136	\$16,514	\$14,730
Material Sales	\$6,240	\$38,139	\$45,952	\$29,708	\$50,758
Other Campaign Support	\$19,503	\$6,705	\$55,549	\$4,864	\$-
Rent & Utilities	\$84,957	\$83,289	\$88,699	\$92,197	\$97,242
Software & Equipment	\$99,574	\$108,002	\$90,001	\$33,360	\$26,084
General Office & Misc.	\$112,548	\$125,182	\$110,099	\$122,498	\$176,090
LP News	\$105,540	\$129,026	\$135,253	\$135,491	\$108,177
Advertising (Candidates & LP)	\$25,033	\$-	\$262,273	\$27,113	\$-
Prospecting/Inquiry Response	\$705,945	\$693,661	\$335,660	\$177,325	\$16,095
Convention Organizing	\$160,386	\$7,425	\$314,698	\$10,562	\$310,532
HQ Fundraising Expenses	\$387,379	\$249,193	\$356,602	\$240,991	\$310,532
Ballot Access (LP & Candidates)	\$79,164	\$86,148	\$507,105	\$100,101	\$134,367
Affiliate Support	\$320,821	\$483,170	\$525,377	\$487,149	\$384,911
Paid Staff	\$475,009	\$489,117	\$574,507	\$577,805	\$564,514

#### **★ FROM THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR**

### 2002: Soaring achievements

o doubt about it: 2002 was a year of soaring achievements for the Libertarian Party, interspersed with some serious setbacks.

The setbacks occurred as the party continued to stumble from the aftershocks of 9/11. Like so many nonprofits, our membership and funding continued to decline along with the sputtering economy.

As if the body blow inflicted on the nation by 9/11 wasn't enough, in 2002 the politicians saddled Americans with massive federal spending that will further weaken the economy: rolled out plans for a war in Iraq; and sucker-punched us with a new campaign finance law that will tie our hands with more red tape.

Despite those challenges, Libertarians scored a number of triumphs:

- We ran the largest slate of third-party candidates since World War II — and got 58 of them elected.
- Our top-of-the-ticket candidates broke the million-vote glass ceiling — and were credited with affecting the outcome of races for governor and Senate.
- Our state parties achieved a number of impressive victories, saving taxpavers millions.
- Several LP candidates displayed the star power to command major media attention, and others appeared in nationally televised debates.
- The LP national office racked up over 700 broadcast interviews. Here's a quick review of 2002:
- Candidates, victories, and officeholders: In 2002 we ran 1,711 candidates — the largest slate of third party candidates in over 60 years. As a result we elected 58 candidates for the year — more than three times the number we elected in '98! Better vet, during the past three years the LP has elected more people to office than in the previous 27 years combined. We now have 562 Libertarians in public office, 340 of them elected.

In the vote total category, many LP candidates exceeded expectations. In Wisconsin, Ed Thompson raked in the second-highest percentage for an LP gubernatorial candidate with 10.4%. In Massachusetts, Michael Cloud earned 19%, the highest percentage in LP history for a Senate candidate in a two-way race. Collectively, our "top of the ticket candidates" (U.S. Senate or governor) smashed the political glass ceiling by earning over 1 million votes for the first time. LP legislative candidates also garnered a record 1 million votes.

Even when our candidates didn't win, they had an impact: Libertarians played a role in ousting two incumbent drug warriors: Democratic Sen. Max Cleland and Republican Rep. Bob Barr. And pundits credited us with controlling the outcome of governor's races in Alabama, Wisconsin, and Oregon, and the U.S. Senate race in South Dakota.

■ Media coverage: Libertarians are definitely ready for prime time, and we proved that again in 2002.

Ed Thompson was the subject of favorable articles in The New York Times magazine, The Washington Post, USA Today, Chicago Tribune, National Review, and The Economist of London. NBC's Today show even followed Ed on the campaign trail.

Rachel Mills, the North Carolina statehouse candidate who starred in the "Ladies of Liberty" calendar, generated coverage from the Washington Post, the AP, and appeared on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor, MS/NBC's

Nachman and CNN's Crossfire.

Pennsylvania qubernatorial candidate Ken Krawchuk and Ed Thompson both appeared in debates that were televised nationally by C-SPAN.





**CATIONS** DIRECTOR

ington Journal, as did newly elected national Chair Geoffrey Neale at the LP convention.

The Wall Street Journal ran a story on a fully informed jury measure on the South Dakota ballot spearheaded by LP member Bob Newland.

Speaking of favorable news coverage, nothing speaks louder than an endorsement. Nine LP candidates earned newspaper endorsements in 2002 from respected publications such as the Denver Post, the Boulder (CO) Weekly, the Fort Wayne News Sentinel, and the Chicago Tribune.

Meanwhile, the LP national office set a non-presidential year record by averaging 109 media contacts and 56 broadcast interviews per month. Our "television breakthrough strategy" continued to pay dividends as LP spokespeople racked up 20 interviews, including multiple appearances on Crossfire and The O'Reilly Factor. All told, 64 of our op-eds were printed on opinion pages around the USA on issues ranging from "fat taxes" to student drug testing to the war on Iraq.

■ Ballot Access: Through a combination of hard work, advance planning, and legal challenges, the LP continued to make gains in ballot access in 2002. We are now on the ballot in 26 states for 2004, more than any other third party.

■ Internet: Our e-mail list swelled to 45,135 subscribers. We used this list to recruit candidates and volunteers, help LP candidates raise funds, and raise over \$70,000 with lightning speed to run our fullpage ads against the drug war.

■ Special projects: On February 26, the LP ran the provocative, fullpage ads mentioned above in USA Today and the Washington Times. The ads accused America's drug warriors of financially supporting terrorism.

A parody of an ongoing advertising campaign by the drug czar's office, the ads generated tens of thousands of hits on the LP website; landed Political Director Ron Crickenberger on The O'Reilly Factor; brought in thousands of dollars from the drug reform community; and proved once again the LP's ability to mobilize supporters quickly over the Internet.

■ Lobbying & initiatives: From Massachusetts to Oregon, Libertarians shook up the political landscape.

In Clayton County, Georgia, Libertarians led the charge to defeat a 1% increase in the sales tax, saving their community \$200 million.

In Oregon, the LP helped quash an effort to impose \$800 million in new "sin" taxes.

And in Massachusetts, voters sent shock waves through the mediapolitical establishment when 45% supported an LP-sponsored initiative to end the income tax.

The LP also worked for freedom on the legal front, joining a lawsuit aimed at overturning an Oklahoma law that discriminates against third parties, and a suit to overturn the Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act.

Yes, 2002 was a year when Libertarians triumphed in the face of adversity — and proved that we're still America's leading third party.

But don't take my word for it. Listen to what the media had to say about us in 2002:

The 30-year-old Libertarian Party believes in less government, lower taxes, and gun rights. Major parties ignore them at their peril." [Seattle Post Intelligencer]

"[Of all third parties,] Libertarians probably have the best chance of becoming a serious and effective party." [Florida Sun-Sentinel]

Now let's keep up the good work



Number of Density per

### LP State-by-State Membership Numbers

ibertarian Party membership as of December 31, 2002. This chart shows "raw" membership numbers per state; the number of members in each state per million population; each state's growth/loss in 2002 in "raw" numbers; each state's growth/loss as a percentage; and each state's growth/loss per population.

Growth %Growth Change since: Growth/pop -4,860 -17.5 -17.1 December 31, 2001

Growth/Loss

Growth/Loss

Growth/Loss

State	Number of Members		ity per on Pop.		vth/Loss mber)		rth/Loss centage)		vth/Loss oulation)
CA	3,981	NH	193.8	IN	32	ID	19.3	ID	17.4
TX	1,249	AK	181.1	ID	23	IN	5.7	IN	5.2
GA	1,219	VT	153.3	AL	4	AL	1.3	AL	0.9
FL	1,193	CO	149.6	DE	-5	HI	-5.6	LA	-3.1
MI	1,025	GA	145.4	HI	-6	DE	-6.8	AR	-4.5
PA	902	WA	132.6	RI	-6	LA	-8.1	HI	-4.9
IL	835	DC	124.2	DC	-7	AR	-9.0	RI	-5.7
WA	794	NV	123.5	ND	-9	DC	-9.0	DE	-6.3
ОН	791	WY	117.3	SD	-9	VT	-9.6	MS	-6.6
NY	780	CA	115.4	VT	-10	RI	-10.2	KY	-8.1
VA	718	NM	108.2	WY	-10	NC	-12.5	WV	-8.3
MA	665	ID	107.5	AR	-12	MI	-13.0	WI	-8.5
CO	661	OR	104.5	LA	-14	WI	-13.0	TX	-9.2
IN	589	MA	104.2	WV	-15	IL	-13.4	NC	-9.3
NC	534	MI	102.6	MS	-19	TX	-13.6	NY	-9.8
NJ	523	VA	99.9	NE	-19	CO	-13.8	IL	-10.3
AZ	418	MT	99.5	AK	-22	WY	-14.7	OK	-10.7
MD	400	ME	96.4	MT	-22	MN	-15.2	NE	-11.1
OR	363	IN	96.3	KY	-33	NH	-15.3	MN	-11.5
MO	362	DE	85.4	ME	-33	TN	-15.8	TN	-11.7
TN	357	HI	82.5	OK	-37	AK	-16.1	SD	-11.9
AL	319	CT	79.1	NH	-44	WV	-16.3	DC	-12.2
MN	319	AZ	78.8	WI	-46	AZ	-16.9	MO	-13.5
WI	308	MD	74.4	UT	-47	MD	-17.2	ND	-14.2
CT	271	PA	73.4	NM	-49	FL	-17.4	SC	-14.3
NV	260	KS	73.1	MN	-57	MO	-17.4	- OH	-15.2
SC	255	FL	72.8	KS	-58	NE	-17.8	MI	-15.3
NH	244	AL	71.5	SC	-58	CT	-17.9	FL	-15.4
NM	198	ОН	69.5	CT	-59	ОН	-17.9	MD	-15.4
KS	197	UT	69.2	TN	-67	KY	-18.5	AZ	-16.0
IA	181	IL	66.9	MO	-76	SC	-18.5	VT	-16.3
LA	158	NC	65.2	NC	-76	WA	-18.6	NJ	-17.0
UT	157	MO	64.3	MD	-83	VA	-19.2	CT	-17.2
OK	153	MN	64.2	AZ	-85	NY	-19.3	WY	-20.2
KY	145	SC	62.8	IA	-86	OK	-19.5	UT	-20.7
ID	142	TN	62.2	NV	-92	MT	-19.6	KS	-21.5
ME	124	IA	61.9	OR	-93	SD	-19.6	PA	-21.9
AR	121	NJ	61.6	CO	-106	MS	-19.8	VA	-23.8
AK	115	TX	58.6	IL	-129	NM	-19.8	CO	-24.0
HI	101	WI	57.0	NJ	-144	CA	-20.2	MT	-24.3
VT	94	NE	51.4	MI	-153	OR	-20.4	ME	-25.6
MT	90	RI	50.1	VA	-171	ME	-21.0	NM	-26.8
NE	88	ND	48.9	ОН	-173	NJ	-21.6	OR	-26.8
MS.	77	SD	48.9	WA	-182	ND	-22.5	CA	-29.2
WV	77	AR	44.9	NY	-186	GA	-22.6	IA	-29.4
DC	71	OK	44.2	TX	-196	KS	-22.7	WA	-30.4
DE	68	WV	42.7	MA	-230	PA	-23.0	AK	-34.7
WY	58	NY	41.0	FL	-252	UT	-23.0	NH	-34.9
RI	53	KY	35.7	PA	-269	MA	-25.7	MA	-36.1
SD	37	LA	35.4	GA	-355	NV	-26.1	GA	-42.3
ND	31	MS	26.9	CA	-1,009	IA	-32.2	NV	-43.7
Aroa	s with cu	rentl	v recogni	zed -	ffiliator			22 9	071

Areas with currently recognized affiliates: Other U.S. areas (12) / APO+FPO (29) / Non-US (11)

**Total Libertarian Party Membership** 

22,923

52

22,871

Overall density: 80.3 members per million population

Density and growth/pop calculations are based on Census Bureau state population estimates for July 1, 2001.

### LIBERTARIAN PARTY 2002 ANNUAL REPORT

#### **★ LP TREASURER'S REPORT**

### **BCRA** and deficits

embership and revenues continued to decline in 2002. We were also challenged by a spate of new regulations in the name of "campaign reform."

Revenues continued to decline for 2002 despite attempts to bolster them by the creation of a development position and the hiring of a development director. Our new development director left abruptly after five months with no new revenues to show for our investment.

Particularly worrisome was the failure of the staff to recognize the seriousness of the revenue shortfall and the failure to take early steps to adjust spending accordingly. The revenue shortfall was masked by cash receipts for convention registration and did not become apparent until after the 2002 convention at which time the convention bills became due.

■ Affiliate Support: The national party transferred \$342,089 to the state affiliates during 2002. Despite best efforts, the amount of past due payables necessitated the suspension of regular monthly payments in November and reduced payments in December and January 2003.

Staff reductions, including the ongoing vacancy of the executive director and campus coordinator positions and the elimination of the *LP News* staff reporter and marketing director positions, have resulted in significant payroll savings. These and other cuts have allowed us to resume making full monthly affiliate support payments in February 2003. It may be a few months before the missed payments can be made good.

advantage of the coordinated expenditure rules to place \$35,000 of targeted television advertising into an effective challenge to Bob Barr's incumbency. \$29,500 was spent in direct support of other candidates in 2002. These funds were raised specifically for candidate support and expended in accordance with promises made. (In the Revenue & Expense Summary table on page 14, these payments are included in the "Drug War Focus Strategy" line, not the "Advertising" line.)

The Bipartisan Campaign Reform Act (BCRA) had a substantial effect on our ability to conduct business. The LNC approved participation in a lawsuit challenging many aspects of the BCRA, including prohibitions against membership of minors and characterizing *LP News* advertising and other sale items as contributions.

BCRA business rule changes have also affected our state and local affiliates. State affiliates may be burdened by new reporting requirements if they forward membership dues to the national office.

Adjustments to business methods are being made across the entire organization. In some cases these changes involve foregoing revenues. In other cases, changes to recruiting materials and membership forms were required, new filing obligations were incurred, and new checking accounts opened adding to the affiliate treasurer maintenance and reconciliation burdens.

These new changes follow the passage in 2001 of new IRS reporting requirements for many of our state and local affiliates. Although some of these rules have subsequently been relaxed, it has made the past two years a very busy and stressful period for state party treasurers, and I applaud the work they have done in keeping up with the changes.

I am pleased to report that at the national and state affiliate level, we appear to be up to the challenge.



BILL REDPATH LP ACTING TREASURER

Our affiliate treasurers are responding well and keeping the party moving.

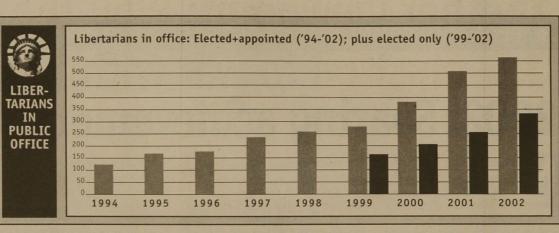
Regarding our financial position, as of December 31, 2002, we have \$502,611 of total assets, \$448,156 of which are current assets

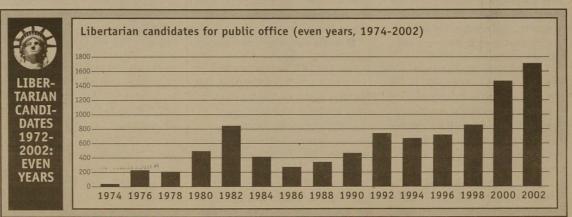
(including \$421,144) of receivables, but only \$9,024 of cash. Our liabilities totaled \$616,186, of which \$612,603 is current liabilities.

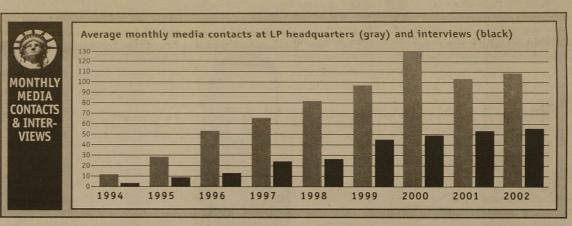
On our 2002 income statement, fundraising revenue totaled about \$1.75 million, with other revenue at about \$300,000, for total revenue of \$2,043,291. With operating expenses at \$2,267,780, the LNC had a net deficit of \$224,489 in 2002.

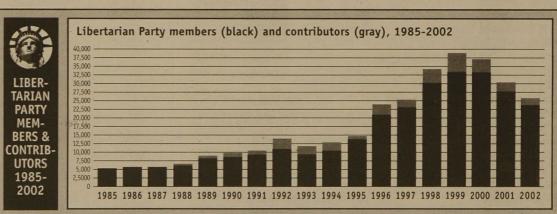
I am acting treasurer of the LNC until the LNC appoints a permanent treasurer. Deryl Martin resigned in January 2003 due to professional obligations. But what he said about the importance of the Liberty Pledge program goes double for me. The pledge program is an extremely low-cost way to raise funds for the LNC. I have been a Liberty Pledger for the past 14 years. The best way you can help move this party forward is by becoming a Liberty Pledger today.

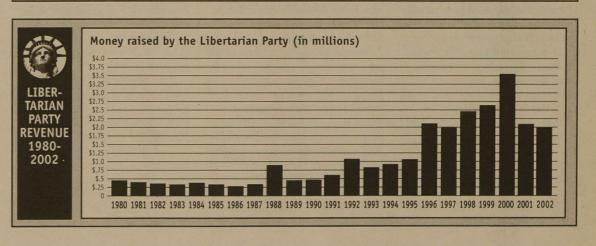
Great thanks for whatever support you have given the LP and whatever you can do in the future.











#### THE FORUM

# Another viewpoint: Why the U.S. must go to war with Iraq

By Hal

Rounds

■ Editor's note: The page one news analysis in the March 2003 issue, "10 reasons why the U.S. should not attack Iraq," generated a large number of responses from *LP News* readers. Several of them are printed in the MailBox section. Here is another, longer response, representative of the Libertarians who believe that an attack on Iraq would be a legitimate, self-defensive use of military power.

If the official Libertarian position regarding an attack on Saddam Hussein is the one given in the March *LP News*, we are in trouble. The article has just enough sound logic to be credible; and just enough bad logic to be disastrous. Libertarians cannot afford to look naive, ignorant, nor cowardly.

The article enumerated 10 reasons against a strike against Iraq. The 10th item asserts that a war with Iraq is utterly arbitrary, citing that other nations lie in a similar position: possessing weapons of mass destruction, having a bad boy reputation, and having the potential to give weapons to

terrorists

But Saddam Hussein is in charge of

Iraq today only because we let him surrender in 1991 under certain terms. Those terms included a prohibition against weapons of mass destruction. Because his continued power was predicated upon that term, and because the United States, as leader of the coalition, was responsible for ensuring compliance with those terms, we have the obligation to ensure that Iraq does not create, stockpile, use, or distribute such weapons.

#### Gun control logic

Iraq is the only nation in the world where these conditions are in effect. In contrast, the armistice of Panmunjon did not require North Korea to disarm, and we have no business telling them to do so now. Restricting another nation's possession of weapons is simply applying the logic of gun control internationally — except for Iraq.

The remainder of the article rests upon that foundation. For example, Iraq's greatly diminished military power (Item #6) does not diminish his threat to us; he just has to invent new tactics. New tactics include supplying and supporting Islamic fundamentalists such as al Qaeda, whom he used to reject (Item #3).

He would indeed use his weapons against the United States (Item #1), but indirectly and surreptitiously. By using his terrorist surrogates, he makes his role as difficult to discover or prove as possible, allowing him to deny responsibility. We can only reveal our knowledge of this (Item #2) when necessary to justify our actions, without jeopardizing our human and technical intelligence resources.

American international policies and presence in the Mideast are merely an excuse for Muslim hatred, not the cause of it (Item #5). They hate America because we do not accept the Muslim religion as the official state religion, and enforce it on our citizens. They have exhibited hatred and violence against non-Mus-



lims around the world — in Africa, Indonesia, the Mideast, and India. Invading Iraq won't change this institutional hatred. And saying that Saddam has poor relations with the Muslims, but that attacking him would make them mad, doesn't make sense.

Item #8 cited the expense of war; that is a prostitute's argument. If a war is morally wrong, it should not be prosecuted no matter how cheaply; but if a war is the right thing to do, then no expense is too great.

The one saving grace for the whole Libertarian argument is Item #9. Despite terms the U.S. foolishly agreed to so we could end the Gulf War quickly, we cannot take the moral high ground if we strike first now. We must let them kill some of us, or at least give them a good shot, first.

It is not wrong to prepare to retaliate against an Iraq attack, nor to threaten and negotiate to achieve the disarmament which we seek (only in Iraq). But we cannot actually strike first. Americans simply don't get motivated to support such things; and, I believe, it is morally wrong to initiate the use of force.

#### Traditional attack

Initiation of force by Iraq would include any traditional attack by planes or missiles.

But it would also include moving weapons against us in a terrorist backpack. And a "first strike" includes providing refuge for any terrorist who has attacked the United States. So, knowingly providing a haven for those who planned, trained, or supplied the September 11 attackers constitutes a first strike that justifies military retaliation.

Saddam will probably use his weapons of mass destruction against us if we attack (Item #4). But, because of our threats, Saddam has postponed his own surrogate terrorist attacks until then. That gives him the opportunity to claim he used his weapons only in defense.

Ultimately, however, the use of his weapons in some other manner was equally likely. At least during an attack, he would aim those weapons at military forces who have some opportunity to defend themselves, rather than massacring hapless civilians.

■ About the author: Hal Rounds is an LP member. He lives in Somerville, Tennessee.

### The soft underbelly of American politics: Local elections

t is nearly impossible to influence the presidential election. The Democrats and Republicans will each spend over \$100 million, largely taxpayer funded, to win the contest. The Commission on Presidential Debates is now the only organization which sponsors presidential debates, and their standards for inclusion make it nearly impossible for third-party candidates to compete.

Federal elections are being gagged in the name of "election reform" and taxpayer funded campaigns. This makes it nearly impossible to elect a Senator or Congressperson, unless you're willing to donate several million dollars to your own campaign.

Voters are also unlikely to vote for candidates for high office unless that person has experience at a lower office. The two old parties train and groom their candidates through smaller offices and appointments before allowing them to run for governor, much less Senator or president.

#### A dozen mayors

The Libertarian Party now has dozens of city council members, and over a dozen mayors in office. This shows we can win smaller — but significant — offices. However, we need to elect a lot more people at these levels before we can expect to win higher office.

The door is open for us to do so. Off-year elections for local offices are the best place for Libertarians to become known, gain valuable election experience, and actually win office.



By James Maynard

State campaign laws often do not apply to local elections. This is not meant to mean that one should run a "dirty campaign," but that financial reporting requirements may be nonexistent, petitioning may be just a few signatures, and candidates are usually free to raise money from any source, in any amount, from across the country.

Unlike state offices, local campaigns are rarely expensive, with most winning candidates spending only a few hundred to a few thousand dollars. It is relatively easy to raise this amount of money.

And local offices are where decisions are made that effect people's lives on a day-to-day basis — about school budgets, property taxes, and zoning ordinances. Although one is

unlikely to make decisions which may be the most interesting (foreign policy, income taxes, Social Security), pro-liberty candidates can do a great deal of good for their communities.

In addition, this can be a "proving ground" for candidates vying for larger offices. Nothing succeeds like success, and if Libertarians prove themselves en masse at city and county levels, we are far more likely to be asked to occupy higher offices.

#### Political record

If a typical computer technician, say, were to run for governor, it's unlikely the media would take the candidate seriously. However, a mayor of a decent-sized city would be taken seriously by media and voters. After all, s/he has political experience, an experienced campaign staff, and a political record to stand on.

Notice that the LP's best result for governor in 2002 was Ed Thompson in Wisconsin, and he was the mayor of Tomah before running for the state's highest office.

The office of mayor (in most towns) is a winnable office, even for a neophyte. Just a few activists in most cities and towns would be enough to lower town and city budgets, create tax relief, and build the party.

If one wishes to compete with the Yankees on a Montreal Expos budget

### "OFF-YEAR

elections for local offices are the best place for Libertarians

to gain valuable election experience, and win local office."

(\$40 million as opposed to \$170 million), there is no way to do it right away. But it is possible to expend that money and time developing future players. Those players, in time, can learn to compete with the "big boys."

The Libertarian Party needs its own AAA team (one step below the major leagues, where potential major league players train), and we have it: The off-year elections. The Democrats and Republicans are so concerned with planning for presidential and Congressional races they have begun to lose sight of local elections. This is where we need to be our strongest.

Towards this end, I have recently established a discussion group on Yahoo!, Local\_Libs. This group is for Libertarians to exchange ideas, infor-

mation, and resources to help each other win local offices. Visit: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Local\_Libs.

Some states require that candidates running for local office file a declaration of intent with the city hall or the secretary of state as early as late January. If you or someone you know are even thinking of running, you should call your local election office, and see what the requirements are. Even if you have no intention of winning, it is possible to use your candidacy to promote proliberty viewpoints in debates, forums, and in interviews.

We need to begin working now to win dozens of local offices this November. We have seen the soft underbelly of American politics, and it is the off-year elections.

■ About the author: James Maynard was the Libertarian candidate for Keene City Council in New Hampshire in 2001, earning over 21% of the vote.

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#### THE CHAIR

### You can't separate the message and messenger

any years ago, I was approached by a person who could best be described as a religious zealot. He engaged me in conversation, and asked me if I'd accepted Jesus into my heart. He proceeded to let me know the eternal damnation that lay before me if I didn't ask Jesus into my heart. And then he told me of all of the joy and peace that I'd know if I did, both now

Perhaps if he'd been a basically nice person, rather than an obnoxious, pushy person, I might have been far more favorable to his message. Instead, he really annoyed me. I'd been raised in a more conservative version of Christianity, so the message didn't offend me. It wasn't anything I hadn't heard before. It wasn't anything I particularly disagreed with.

However, the guy just struck me the wrong way, and I asked him: "If heaven is full of people like you, why would I want to go there?" Separating the message from the messenger is virtually impossible.

When I was first approached and informed about the Free State Project (where a large group of libertarians will organize, decide on a state, then move there en masse in order to directly effect a more libertarian life) I had somewhat the same question for myself.

Of course I'd love to live in a libertarian world, but would I like to live in a world full of libertarians?

That gave me pause, I can tell you.

I happen to think that the Free State Project is an interesting idea for those who are interested in it; and not very interesting for those who aren't. I see great appeal in wanting to actually make realworld changes in government on a limited scope.

I also think it would be very beneficial to have a real-world

example to point to for those who choose not to move. The influence of a successful experiment in social de-engineering would be astounding. Of course, the influence of a failed experiment in social de-engineering would be disastrous.

I belong to the group that has decided to continue living among the rest of the world, acting as a sort of missionary for Liberty. I have no desire to spend all my days preaching to the choir — there's too much competition. I will leave it to others to make the Free State Project both a reality and a success.

Still, the question remains. Would you want to live in a world full of libertarians? And if this question makes you pause, then how do curious, uninitiated, inquiring, unsure-ofthemselves members of the public at large answer that question? That is the question each

quest to one of our functions asks themselves, whether they recognize

By Geoffrey

LP NATIONAL CHAIR

Neale

Is this a group of people that I want to be part of? If the answer is no, the philosophy, principles and objectives of the Libertarian Party mean nothing to that newcomer. If the answer is yes, then our philosophy, principles and objectives will influence that newcomer, no matter how far they diverge from us upon initial contact. If the answer is no, this will be their first and last visit. If the answer is yes, they may come back again.

We cannot escape the fact that man in his normal condition is a social animal. We can try to change that fact (let's do that first thing after we rewrite the laws of physics, okay?) but I see no point. Let's accept this fact. Let's deal with the ramifications.

If we want to succeed politically, we must succeed as a group others want to join. I do not propose that we drop philosophy. It still must be our driving force, our guiding light.

But our first objective with every first-time guest is to give them as many reasons as possible to come back again. And in converse, that objective must also be to give them no reason to not come back again.

Our principles and philosophy are so strong that they stand by themselves. We do not need salesmen to convince the world of how great Liberty is. We need to convince the world of how great we are. We already have the salesmen — they are us. It's just that too many of us do not realize just exactly what we're selling, and what we've failed to sell.

Never forget that you cannot separate the message and the messenger. We've got the message down pat, but we all need to be better messengers.

### Putting America back to work: How to reduce unemployment

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

#### **By Bill Winter**

LP NEWS EDITOR

ccording to economists, the U.S. unemployment rate — 5.8% in February 2003 isn't high by historical standards. But don't tell that to the 8.5 million Americans who are currently looking for jobs.

Take Alicia Garcia, a former credit manager in Belmont, California, who has been without a job and a paycheck for eight months.

"Right now I'm in a position where I'm going to be able to pay my rent [this month] and pay my bills," she told the San Jose Mercury News. "After that, I don't know where the money's going to come from.'

Or Matt Heminger, a senior educational engineer in Silicon Valley, California, who has been job-hunting for five months and is now willing to take any job - even a tempo-

'I don't even think about [longterm] career opportunities," he told the Contra Costa Times. "I just have to put bread on the table."

With 8.5 million unemployed Americans, there are 8.5 million similar stories of distress and desperation.

#### Never zero percent

Of course, unemployment can never reach zero percent. There will always be people between jobs, new graduates entering the labor force, companies that close unexpectedly, industries that are winding down, and economic downturns.

And unemployment plays an important role in a free-market system. While painful, it is beneficial to the economy in the long run.

As Dwight R. Lee and Richard B. McKenzie, authors of Failure and Progress: The Bright Side of the Dismal Science (Cato Institute, 1993), wrote: "Those who experience unemployment feel pain - but because of that pain they are likely to obtain new employment in which they provide more value to consumers.

After all, economic conditions like unemployment are "to the economy what physical pain is to the body," they noted. It's the market's way of "letting people know when the resources they are using in one activity would be more productively used in another activity."

So, unemployment is the market's sometimes painful method of moving people from less-productive jobs to more-productive jobs. And more productive jobs create more wealth and economic growth - which, in the long term, raise everyone's standard of living.

## Libertarian

But, in the short term, America needs to move 8.5 million individuals back into the job market. Because it's in the short term that Alicia Garcia and Matt Heminger must pay their rent and support their families.

Before we look at how to get America working again, let's demolish some popular myths about the causes of unemployment.

According to economic isolation-

noted: "By starting businesses and spending their money on products made by Americans and immigrants alike, immigrants create at least as many jobs as they fill. Simply put, immigrants increase the supply of labor, but they also increase the demand for labor."

Myth: Free trade causes unemployment.

■ Fact: "After passage of NAFTA" - a flawed, limited move towards free trade - "the U.S. economy created millions of new jobs," wrote Daniel T. Griswold, at the Cato Institute's Center for Trade Policy Studies. "Civilian employment in the

> U.S. economy grew from 120.3 million in 1993 to 135.1 million in 2001, an increase of almost 2 million jobs per year."

So what does cause excessive unemployment? Government.

In the name of the "public good," state and federal politicians have implemented policies that boost unemployment: High taxes that slow economic growth. Government-mandated benefits that price potential jobs out of the market. Regulations that choke the entrepreneurial spirit. And minimum wages that chop the bottom rung off the wage ladder.

Any job-creation program must start by

undoing the damage government has done. Here's where to start:

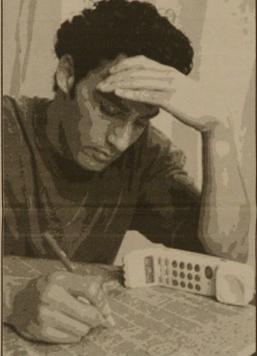
■ Reduce taxes. Taxes put the brakes on job creation by reducing the money available to business to expand and hire new workers.

"High tax rates [are] the quickest way to insure high unemployment," wrote Adam Thierer in a 1994 Heritage Foundation report, The Five Principles of Job Creation. "The effect of taxes is a huge barrier to job creation, as capital shifts from the hands of investors to the government."

In other words, every dollar that goes to the federal government is one less dollar available for businesses "to invest in the means of production, including land, equipment, factories, new technologies, and labor," wrote Thierer. "Because taxes create disincentives to invest in businesses, capital for future job creation is being produced at a lower rate."

■ End all government-mandated job benefits, such as the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA), health benefits, unemployment insurance, and so on. Such regulations act as "hidden taxes," boosting the cost of hiring new employees.

> "When the government increases See WORK Page 22





grants taking Americans' jobs and by the giant "sucking sound" of NAFTA. The facts suggest otherwise.

Myth: Immigration causes unemployment.

Fact: "In the 1980s, the U.S. accepted 7 million new immigrants, but unemployment fell sharply," wrote the Cato Institute's Stephen Moore and Stuart Anderson. As the Cato Handbook for the 106th Congress





#### **THE MAILBOX**



#### No litmus test

In response to the article, "10 Reasons Why the US Should Not Attack Iraq," [LP News, March 2003] I believe a convincing Libertarian case for national defense could be made. While the issue of going to war should definitely be addressed by the party, I think the issue should not be used as a litmus test for the party. I think it would be destructive and not be in the best interests of the party to come out with an official policy stance on such a divisive question.

There is a lot of common ground between Libertarians. Most support self-defense and a national defense. Most agree upon a noninterventionist foreign policy. A majority supported military action against the terrorists who were responsible for 9/11. I think it is safe to say that all Libertarians reject the notion that government should have a blank check for an endless build out of the U.S. defense department.

Unfortunately, when deciding whether or not our country should attack Iraq, there are many determining factors that can be left up to different interpretations. What defines an act of terrorism? When does another foreign country's military act of aggression become a threat to our national safety?

What is the difference between the initiation of military aggression versus an act of national self-defense? When does a country's noninterventionist military policy become an act of military passivism? What is a measured response? What are the international consequences of any military action? These complex issues and many more can be very debatable between Libertarians who initially had so much common ground.

For this reason, it is no surprise that our party members have different opinions regarding a war with Iraq. I believe it would be a shame to simply let one question define and divide the Libertarian Party. Let us not let this issue bring us down.

- RICK LIBBY

Springfield, New Jersey

party members have different opinions regarding a war.

It would be a shame to let one question divide the party."

#### Far left idiots

The March 2003 LP News contained many outstanding articles, topped by the article "10 Reasons Why The U.S. Should Not Attack Iraq." This is the best anti-war article I have read that is not simultaneously anti-American.

Unfortunately, the article "Libertarians Rally Against War With Iraq" described a few libertarians being useful idiots for the far left which led the so-called "anti-war" protests

in mid-February.

Despite the "reporting" by the "mainstream" media, these protests were actually anti-American. The organizers of these protests were nowhere to be found when Clinton bombed Serbia, Sudan and Afghanistan.

They also think President Bush is a horrible human being, but Saddam Hussein is a great guy, just as they found Ho Chi Minh to be a hero instead of a tyrant.

In a free society, these hard left organizations, such as A.N.S.W.E.R., would be as despised and marginalized as the Nazis and Ku Klux Klan, and buffoons such as Al Sharpton, Ron Kovic, Jessica Lange, and other Hollywood nitwits would be ignored.

Our target audience, the hard-working American being crushed by regulations and taxes to pay for bloated and unconstitutional government at all levels, probably won't be interested in a political party that they may mistakenly associate with people they consider anti-American.

Libertarian Party members must pick their allies carefully. We must continue criticizing the policies of the government, but we must never cross the line separating loyal and intelligent opposition and associating with those who don't want to improve America but destroy it instead.

— JOSEPH ROSENQUIST

Hampton, New Hampshire

#### ■ Set an example

How dare you speak for all Libertarians?!

I joined the LP in January, 1972.

See MAILBOX Page 20

#### THE PULSE

### One race, many opinions

ocus the LP's political power on just one race? That might be difficult to do, given the divergent opinions expressed in this month's unscientific Pulse question.

In response to the query — "Should the Libertarian Party put all its resources into winning one important race in 2004?" — LP News readers could not reach consensus.

The idea behind the one-race strategy is not complicated: Instead of dissipating its resources on hundreds of races around the USA (and losing most of them), the party should select *one* winnable race (or perhaps a small handful of races), and direct members' contributions to just that one race. Under such a scenario, say supporters, the LP could elect a Congressman or governor.

However, the plan couldn't muster support from a majority of *LP News* readers — suggesting that selecting one race, and convincing *LP*members to support it, might be an impossible and impractical task.

Only a plurality of respondents — 46.2% — supported the one-race strategy, arguing that it would allow the LP to "shoot high enough to make a big splash but also low enough to be realistic." Some supporters also drew parallels between the strategy and the Free State Project.

On the other hand, 38.4% of *LP News* readers opposed the strategy, either because they say LP members couldn't agree on a race, or because it smacks of centralism, or because they say it wouldn't work.

Another 15.4% gave ambiguous or conditional answers. Here's a representative sample of responses:

- Yes, particularly if this is done in a lower-population state. The idea would form a real good test run for many of the elements of the Free State Project for the same reasons given to advance that project, namely focused, effective, leveraged real-world impact.
  - JEFF THOMSEN, Kingman, Arizona
- I am not in favor of anointing a particular candidate for special nationwide support. Good candidates such as Carla Howell or James Dan are able to draw national support without being singled out by the party to the necessary exclusion of other worthy candidates.
  - STU YOUNG, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
- Yes! Being that the LP is a much smaller party than the mainstream "axis of evil," we need to get more name recognition the fastest way possible. If the LP can get a U.S. House or U.S. Senate seat, it would be a wake-up call to the rest of the nation. To me, one Libertarian Senator is better than 10 city council members. We need to shoot high enough to make a big splash but also low enough to be realistic. Currently president is unrealistic for anyone outside of the D&R's. We can't get president until Americans realize we mean business. Getting candidates in Congress is the way we show that.
  - KEVIN KURZAWA, Broomfield, Colorado
- Libertarian campaigns these days are strictly about voter education and telling the other side of the story. Until that changes, LP members won't be able to run a strategic national campaign. In my opinion, we need to woo more libertarian Americans to view us as the best possible choice before attempting such a plan.
  - BRETT PORTER, Lexington, Ohio
- As much as I'd like to see us engage in something both visible and decisive, there's not enough of us yet with the will, much less the skill, to take on that kind of challenge.
  - KEN PARMALEE, Morrow, Georgia
- Bad question! If the LP manages to get its candidate into even one presidential debate in 2004, G.W. Bush will likely lose the presidency. The Libertarian candidate will also lose, of course, but everyone not just in the U.S., but around the world will be talking about the LP. That would be a huge win.
  - MARK BAHNER, Durham, North Carolina
- Libertarians could never agree on one nationally targeted race. I think it should be left up to each state party organization to decide if it should put all its eggs in one basket by running one or two fabulous candidates in that state, or retain the current system of running as many candidates as possible. After the next election cycle, it should be plain to all which system works better.
  - ROBERT HANSEN, Austin, Texas
- Before it can win partisan offices, the LP must break the two-party stranglehold on the electorate. To do that, we need to replace states' plurality voting rules with preference voting. To that end, the LP should allocate resources to preference voting initiatives. In the meantime, we can erode Republicrat support with vote swapping.

See THE PULSE Page 20

#### THE PULSE

Continued from Page 19

(Unenthusiastic D & R voters sit down together with their absentee ballots and agree to watch each other vote independent, protesting while still achieving mutual cancellation.)

- JEFF FISHER, Vancouver, Washington
- Douse the fire in one spot and move on from there. The Free State Project has the right idea. Target one small state and turn it into a libertarian state. [For example], 500 activists and \$500,000 focused on 20 state house races and the governor's race could free Vermont.
- HARDY MACIA, Grand Isle, Vermont
- I believe wholeheartedly that our presidential campaign should focus on a single state as the best opportunity to get electoral votes. If we have any chance to get media attention, this is the way to go. If we have a chance of winning just one electoral vote it will become the "Libertarian factor" whenever any analysis is made about who might win the race. And with the news that a Libertarian candidate won one state it will spark a domino effect as people realize that the Libertarian candidate actually has a chance of winning.
  - CHAD ELWARTOWSKI, Augusta, Georgia
- Until more libertarians inside and outside the party start supporting our campaigns, we need to focus our resources. Certainly run as many candidates as possible since that helps across the ticket, but we need to focus on campaigns that will achieve victory or get us ballot access.
  - RICH TOMASSO, Nashua, New Hampshire
- Targeting one race once might be a good idea, just to let people see if it does any good. But, great people like Ron Paul have been in Congress and in state legislatures, and there has been no great rush to join their causes. Putting all the LP's resources into getting LPers to serve on local boards, councils, commissions, etc., is a better strategy.
  - BERT DONALDSON, San Diego, California

#### **May Question: Favorite for Prez?**

yndicated radio talk show host Gary Nolan has already formed an exploratory committee. Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate Ken Krawchuk is reportedly thinking about running, as is 2002 Massachusetts gubernatorial candidate Carla Howell. And the word on the street is that Judge James Gray (see page 1) may toss his hat into the ring. Of course, we're talking about the 2004 LP presidential nomination. But as a handful of candidates start the arduous trek towards the LP nomination, we have to ask: Who would you like to see as the party's 2004 presidential candidate? Who would represent the party best, or run the best campaign, or win the most votes, or attract the most attention? You can choose someone who is already running, or who has said they're thinking about running. Or, you can select someone who ought to run. (Clint Eastwood? Dave Barry? Walter Williams? Neal Boortz?) In other words, who is your ideal LP presidential candidate?

■ QUESTION: Who would you like to see seek (and win) the Libertarian Party's 2004 presidential nomination? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: April 8, 2003

#### June Question: The Pulse?

enetically modified food. Campaign matching funds. War with Iraq. Cooperating with the Greens. Improving the LP platform. Your most despised politician. Why more women don't support the LP. A new party slogan. Abolishing the membership "pledge." Term Limits. A flat tax. A better name for the party. The death penalty.. Over the years, this Pulse column has asked LP News readers just about every imaginable political, tactical, cultural, and strategic question imaginable. Or have we? Probably not — and that's why we're going to turn the tables this month, and ask you a different kind of question: What question should we ask in an upcoming Pulse? We'll list the most interesting, provocative, and offbeat suggestions in the June issue, and then proceed to ask the best questions in the months that follow. Your proposed question can relate to any debatable issue of potential interest to Libertarians. Remember: This is your one chance to get a free (unscientific!) public opinion survey of your fellow Libertarians!

■ QUESTION: What question should a future Pulse ask LP News readers? And why? (Please keep answers to 100 words or less.)

■ DEADLINE: May 8, 2003

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: Bill Winter, Attn: LP News/The Pulse, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

#### THEMAILBOX

Continued from Page 19

I ran for state assembly. I have been a delegate to national conventions. However, my wife and I have changed our registration to Independent over the issue of Wahhabi terrorism and militant Arab dictatorships and WMD [weapons of mass destruction].

This is a new kind of perpetual war we face. Hitler was a threat to all of Europe, but not the entire world, nor America. Britain and France could have launched preemptive war against Germany as late as the summer of '38 and prevented W.W.II and saved millions of lives.

Saddam and Saudi-based Wahhabism (Islamism) is a threat to the entire Middle East, where we have vital national interests.

Let's liberate Iraq and set an example of liberty.

- DEVON SHOWLEY
- Cypress, California

#### Great work

I think your article was one of the finest and most articulate pieces of literature on the whole Iraq issue I have seen. I have referred a number of my friends to the www.LP.org website just to read it.

Keep up the great work. In this day and age where there are volumes of misinformation and emotional nonsense on both sides, it is a pleasure to read an article so well planned out and so well written.

KEN AANERUD

Lake Forest, California

#### Kill these people

I am a member of both the Libertarian and Republican Parties. I usually agree more with you but support Republicans in order to defeat the single greatest enemy of this country: the Democrat Party.

However, your position on the Iraqi war is naive and proves that you are in denial. It is a fact that hundreds of millions of Islamic people have been brainwashed from birth to hate America and will do anything, including self sacrifice, to kill Americans and to destroy America.

They have already launched the deadliest attack ever on American soil and will never stop until every American is dead! This is their mission and they believe it is mandated by God.

We have no choice; we must kill these people and everyone who aids and supports them or they will kill us. Many people will have to die in order to save humanity. But the alternative will be a totally Islamic planet where all decent people are murdered and the freedom to think will have been abolished. This is their mission and if you ever doubt it, just ask them!

- RICHARD B. EDISON

Ft. Lauderdale, Florida

#### Change their minds

According to a recent Pulse poll, 45% of this party's membership disagrees with the LP News article "10 reasons why the U S should not at-

I pray that many of those who did

will change their minds after reading that article.

Do those who won't really believe that Osama bin Laden has shaved his beard, changed his clothes and is now calling himself "Saddam Hussein"?

- STEPHEN J. BAKER Minneapolis, Minnesota

" HAVE BEEN

listening to Neal Boortz, and can't

believe the LP allows

this chickenhawk war-monger to spew

his war chants."

#### "Educate" members?

I really have to respond to the letter from Carol Moore concerning the results of the poll where 45% of responding Libertarians support intervention in Iraq [The MailBox, March 2003]. She attributes this to the failings of the party staff to "educate" us as to the party stance. I, for one, am glad that the Libertarian Party is not monolithic, controlled from the top down.

While I didn't respond to the poll, I do support the Iraq action. If that disqualifies me from being in your club, feel free to send me back my dues money. I just can't warm up to the Harry Browne-style isolationism. This country is involved in virtually everything that happens on this planet, whether we like it or not.

Have we thrown our weight around too much and in the wrong places? Of course. But you would be wrong to believe that if we only kept to ourselves, everyone would love us. The Islamic lunatic fringe hates us for the very freedoms that Libertarians champion. Their subjugation of women seems to know no bounds.

I would like to see at least as much



#### Make Your Voice Heard

LP News welcomes letters. Send correspondence to:

E-mail: Editor@hq.LP.org. Fax: (202) 333-0072 (Attn: LP News). Mail: Bill Winter, Attn: LP News, 1640 Worcester Road, #330-D, Framingham, MA 01702

protest and righteous indignation directed toward murdering despots as is directed at those who might suggest utilizing influence and, yes, military might, to help extend Libertarian-style freedoms to other peoples of the world.

- TOM JONES

Cincinnati, Ohio

#### Not a moral war

It is interesting that the February issue had an article on morality because that is why the Libertarians must oppose the war in Iraq.

America was founded on the principles of freedom and non-intervention and the only war that is justified is a moral war. That some Libertarians think we are justified in attacking Iraq only shows the effectiveness of our government's propaganda.

Iraq's links to terrorism are weak. Remember how we found a terrorist training camp in Oregon? Should we bomb Portland as a result?

Even if the Iraqis have weapons of mass destruction, we wouldn't be justified in attacking them any more than launching a pre-emptive strike against the old Soviet Union. Containment worked against the Soviets and would work against the Iraqis.

- TOM ARTH

West Plains, Missouri

#### Pro-peace bias

Regarding the newest issue of LP News, and the last four months of issues, there is, and has been, a distinct "anti-war" sentiment in the issues, as if the matter at hand has been solved.

This issue seems to me to be far from solved as it relates to the LP membership. I beg you to reconsider your editorial bias and allow both sides of the debate to have their fair share of page space in LP News regarding the impending attack on Iraq.

I have serious concerns that the LP is attaching a distinct "propeacenik" Democratic agenda to its name, something removed from its core principals. Please consider the merits of this debate and allow all sides to discuss the issue at hand.

- LUKE MCMANAMON

Boise, Idaho

#### The Boortz problem

I have been listening to the Neal Boortz show on the radio for about six months, and still can't believe the Libertarian Party allows this armchair chickenhawk, bloodthirsty, war-mongering, Rush Limbaugh-wannabe, to spew his war chants every day on national radio in the name of the Libertarian Party.

He makes it a point to say that he is in favor of legalizing drugs because he is a libertarian, and then

See THE MAILBOX Page 21

#### Is Abortion Aggression? Scientific & Philosophical Arguments Show Why It Is

Go to: http://www.L4L.org For a literature list, send a S.A.S.E. to Libertarians for Life, 13424 Hathaway Drive #18, Wheaton, MD 20906 • (301) 460-4141 libertarian@erols.com

#### THEMAILBOX

Continued from Page 20 follows it up with his Republican views on the war.

When a large portion of the population is fed up with the Democrats and Republicans, and are looking for a new party to align themselves with, there is Neal Boortz — preaching like a Republican — on national radio!

I have e-mailed him many times, telling him he is a traitor to the party, and should announce a disclaimer before each show that his views are not that of the Libertarian Party.

— STEVE ANDERSON Phoenix, Arizona

#### **■** Truth about dairymen

As a libertarian and a dairyman I am disappointed that you hold dairy farmers, and therefore me, in such low regard. Picking on farmers as you did in your Libertarian Solutions column doesn't solve anything ["What the government did to the dairy industry (and how to fix it)," March 2003].

Paragraph one: "Got milk? If so, you've got higher prices...farmers can charge..." You need to be aware of a basic truth, farmers only sell raw materials; a dairy farmer does not sell cheese or powdered milk or butter or pasteurized homogenized, vitamin D fortified fluid milk, or any other processed dairy product. He only sells raw milk."

I have been producing raw milk for thirty winters and have yet to sell one teaspoon of ice cream or one pound of cheese.

Less than 2% of the U.S. population are farmers. More and more people are getting further removed from the land. Too many don't realize why they go to work everyday. They work to buy the food they cannot grow themselves. With large, concentrated farms at risk of environmental disaster, that puts people's lives in jeopardy.

Eliminating the federal dairy program is the proper approach. However, the idea that a free market system will somehow make milk cheaper for the consumer is pure nonsense.

A Forbes magazine article mentioned that the average-size family spends nine cents of its earned dollar on food. You can't find that price cheaper anywhere in the world; not Australia; not New Zealand.

— DALE A. GARVEY
Charlotte, Vermont

#### ■ Milk politics

Thanks for illustrating another prime example of political double standards [in the Libertarian Solutions column about dairy policy].

In trying to save his customers money, Midland Farms President

Concise Guide to Economics

The Advocates
Laissez Faire Books

Amazon.com

Demetrious Haseotes is subject to charges of selling milk below cost.

On the other hand, the USDA can freely spend our tax dollars to subsidize U.S. farmers, paying them \$1 a pound for butter, so it could sell the butter in foreign countries under cost, at 60 cents a pound. Government selling under cost, yes; Mr. Haseotes selling under cost, no.

Don't ya just love the politics of bipartisanship? What the taxpayer

class needs is tri-partisanship, led by the Libertarian Party.

— HARRY THOMPSON
Tucson, Arizona

#### **■ Stupid Unsafe Vehicle**

Jerry Taylor ("Jesus hates SUVs," The MailBox, March 2003) better get his facts straight. He writes "because we know SUVs are safer to drive than the cars Ball would have us buy...".

We know no such thing. SUVs are safer to be in if you crash one into a (smaller) car. But SUVs are killing people wholesale because they roll over so easily. They are inherently unstable and hence unsafe.

Every time we hear someone has been killed in a rollover accident, my wife says, "I'll bet it's an SUV." Nine times out of 10, she's right.

SUV: Stupid Unsafe Vehicle.

— G. DAVID THAYER Salem, Oregon

#### Opposes GMO

I'm opposed to current GMO [genetically modified organisms] crop science and I'm surprised by the Pulse poll showing 85% of responding libertarians in favor [February 2003].

 $\star$  Tough Questions by Mary Ruwart  $\star$  Miss Liberty's Video Picks  $\star$ 

I consider the technology's

"safety" to be a less relevant issue than the simple reality of unwelcome cross-pollination.

Let's reframe the argument in analogy: Imagine you and your neighbor raised cattle. And imagine you just didn't like his bulls. And imagine that you kept finding those bulls on your side of the fence with your cows. How would you feel about that?

I believe that organic growers' heartfelt wish to farm without forced GMO impact, whether foolish or enlightened, is deserving of respect.

Vol. 1, No. 3

— SHAI NEWMAN
Ithica, New York

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www.TheAdvocates.org

### How to start putting 8.5 million Americans back to work

Continued from Page 18

[the] burden on the private sector by promulgating new rules, firms must adjust their behavior accordingly," wrote Thierer. "This adjustment process may require an increase in worker training, paperwork requirements, or even retooling. Regardless of the method, costs will be incurred." And higher costs mean fewer jobs.

Ironically, mandated benefits may not even help workers, argued the Heritage Foundation's William G.

"In the long run, employers will seek to offset their increased costs, either by reducing wage and salary payments or by cutting back on other benefits that the employer previously

might have provided voluntarily," he wrote. "As a result, the total value of the employees' compensation may be no higher than it would have been in the absence of the regulation."

Abolish the minimum wage. The minimum wage — currently set at \$5.15 per hour by federal law harms the people it is most intended

"It is now almost universally accepted that minimum wage laws reduce the employment of low-skilled workers whose productivity simply is not worth what the employers are required by law to pay," wrote William G. Laffer III in How Regulation is Destroying American Jobs, a 1993 Heritage Foundation report.

For example, when Congress raised the minimum wage in 1989 and 1991 by 27%, teenage employment fell by 11%.

Every increase in the minimum wages makes "it harder for young adults with little education, skill, or experience to obtain their first full-time entrylevel jobs," wrote Laffer. "These are the jobs where they would acquire the training, experience, and work habits that eventu-

ally would make their labor worth more than the legal minimum."

How can politicians get away with such job-killing legislation? By inflicting the harm on those least likely to complain, said Jim Cox, author of The Concise Guide to Economics.

"The vast majority of people adversely affected by [a minimum wage] increase are young, illiterate, or among the lowest ranks of the socioeconomic ladder," he said. "They generally don't vote. So politicians can posture as the saviors of these lowincome people while actually destroying their prospects for attaining upward mobility.

Repeal regulations that create barriers to work and job creation. Government regulations chop the bottom rungs off the economic ladder, and make it more difficult for lower-income Americans to start businesses and create jobs.

Here's one example: In 1996, JoAnne Cornwell decided to open an African hair-braiding service in San Diego. Cornwell, an African-American, had learned a unique technique of African hair-braiding from her grandmother. She wanted to use her skill to start a new business.

California bureaucrats had other ideas. The state's Department of Consumer Affairs informed Cornwell that she would have to attend 1,600 hours of schooling at a cost of \$5,000 to obtain a cosmetology license — even though African hair-braiding was not taught in cosmetology classes.

Cornwell was lucky. The Institute for Justice took her case. After two years in court, she finally won the right to open her hair-braiding shop.

Others aren't so lucky. A myriad of regulations and licensing requirements keep thousands of poor Americans from starting small businesses and lifting themselves out of poverty.

By 1993, excessive regulations had cost the American economy 3 million jobs, estimated Laffer — and untold millions since then.

"Regulations act like a hidden tax

on job creation and employment," he wrote.

#### Create jobs?

A final note about unemployment: By laying out an agenda that would result in more jobs, we're not suggesting that the function of government is to stimulate the economy, or to "create" jobs.

"[Economic] growth should be of no concern to the government," argued the Future of Freedom's

Sheldon Richman. "The idea that the state is the steward of the economy is an intrinsically statist idea."

But it's more than just a "statist idea" — it doesn't work. The more the government meddles in "job creation" schemes, the more jobless Americans there are.

Here's proof: In 1946, Congress passed the Employment Act, which established for the first time the principle that it was the responsibility of the federal government to maintain full employment.

Alas. As Milton Friedman acidly noted in 1993: "In the years since [1946], unemployment has averaged 5.7%. In the years from 1900 to 1929 when government made no pretense of being responsible for employment, unemployment averaged 4.6%. So, our unemployment problem too is largely government created."

That's why the government has only one job: Stop taking actions that slow economic growth, hinder business — and reduce employment.

#### **UPCOMING**

#### April 26, 2003

Maryland LP Convention, Old Station 8 Firehouse, Gaithersburg. Speakers TBA. For information, call Chip Spangler: (301) 346-2361.

#### ■ April 26-27, 2003

New York LP Convention, Mohonk Mountain House, New Paltz. Speakers include Dr. Thomas Szasz (adjunct scholar, Cato Institute). For information, call Werner Hetzner: (518) 235-8331 (h) or (518) 474-9799 (w). Or e-mail: whetzner@mac.com.

#### April 27, 2003

Kansas LP Annual Meeting, Lenexa Community Center, Lenexa. Speakers TBA. For information, visit: www.lpks.org. Or call Steven Rosile at: (316) 618-1339.

#### May 1, 2003

Rhode Island LP Convention, Knights of Columbus Hall, Providence. Speakers include Rich Aucoin (2002 Massachusetts LP Lt. Governor candidate). For information, call Dr. Dan Harrop: (401) 331-7778.

#### May 3, 2003

Nevada LP Convention, Delta Saloon, Virginia City. Speakers include Judge James Gray (California Superior Court, Orange County). For information, visit: www.lpnevada.org. Or e-mail: erahn8@yahoo.com.

#### ■ May 9-11, 2003



Ohio LP Convention, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Dayton. Speakers include Neal Boortz (radio talk show host), Doug Bandow (syndicated columnist), Vin Suprynowicz (author, The Ballad of Carl Draga), and Sam Staley (Buckeye Institute). For information, call Mary Pacinda: (937) 845-9980. Or e-mail: pacimj@aol.com. Or visit:

www.lpo.org/LPO2003Convention.htm.

#### May 10, 2003

Hawaii LP Convention, 2500 Pali Highway, Honolulu. Speakers TBA. For information, call Roger Taylor: (808) 352-5683. Or e-mail: rogertaylor@hawaii.rr.com

#### May 24, 2003

Arkansas LP Convention, Doubletree Hotel, Little Rock. Speakers TBA. For information, e-mail: gerhard@langguth-us.net. Or: rlreed@hypertech.net.

#### ■ June 6-8, 2003

Missouri LP Convention, Inn at the Park Hotel, St. Louis. Speakers include Michael Tanner (Cato Institute) and Jim Lark (former National Libertarian Party Chairman). For information, call Greg Tlapek: (877) 868-3487. Or e-mail: gtlapek@aol.com.



#### ■ June 13-15, 2003

New Mexico LP Convention, La Posada de Hotel, Albuquerque. Speakers include Richard Winger (publisher, Ballot Access News), Dr. Harold Messenheimer (executive director, Rio Grande Foundation), and Michael Badnarik (candidate, LP presidential nomination). For information, contact Joseph Knight at: nm\_libertarian@yahoo.com.

#### ■ July 7-11, 2003

International Society for Individual Liberty (ISIL) World Conference, Vilnius, Lithuania. For information, visit: www.isil.org.

### Something the IRS would rather you not know...

ou might have heard rumors that the sixteenth amendment, which authorized an income tax in 1913, was not properly ratified. Federal courts have upheld the 16th amendment, but the rumors persist.

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Our research shows Mr. Clark was optimis-

tic. Some states voted no. Some made changes to the amendment.



Some state governors didn't sign it as required. Some states simply didn't send anything back to Washington D.C.

We made copies of documents in the various archives that verify our findings. You might like to possess a set, as they have a very interesting effect on the IRS. To find

out how and why, visit:

www.theuntaxman.com

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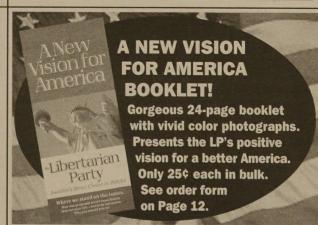
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#### **UPCOMING**

#### March 29, 2003

Minnesota LP Convention, FSC Conference & Banquet Facility, New Brighton. Speakers include Jack Tomzcak (Let Minnesota Vote), Linda Runbeck (Minnesota Taxpayers League), Dan McElroy (Minnesota Commissioner of Finance), Pat Awada (Minnesota State Auditor), and Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate). For information, e-mail Colin Wilkinson: CWilkinson@RiverWarren.com. Or call: (612) 825-5100.

#### April 4-6, 2003

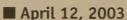
Colorado LP Convention, Ramada Inn, Colorado Springs. Speakers include Ed Thompson (2002 Wisconsin LP gubernatorial candidate), Gary Nolan (candidate, LP's 2004 presidential nomination), Vin Suprynowicz (columnist, Las Vegas Review-Journal), Dr. Robert Zubrin (author, The Case for Mars), and Suzanne Shell (founder, American Family Advocacy Center). For information, e-mail: lpco2003@psisys.net. Or call: (719) 310-9444. Or visit: www.lpcolorado.org/.

#### ■ April 4-6, 2003

Pennsylvania LP Convention, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Wilkes Barre. Speakers include Marty Thomas-Brumme (Rose Center on Conflict Resolution and Restorative Justice), Dennis Draughon (editorial cartoonist, *Scranton Times*), and Dr. Imad-ad-Dean Ahmad (Minaret of Freedom Institute). Also featuring the band, PokerFace. For information, call Betsy Summers: (570) 822-9194. Or e-mail: summers@usnetway.com.

#### ■ April 5, 2003

Michigan LP Convention, Eagle Crest Conference Center & Resort, Ypsilanti. Speakers include Ron Crickenberger (LP Political Director) and Rob Kampia (Marijuana Policy Project). For information, e-mail: salvette@ameritech.net. Or call: (734) 668-2607. Or visit: www.mi.lp.org.



Massachusetts LP Convention, Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framingham. Speakers include Bill Masters (sheriff and author, *Drug War Addiction*), David Rostcheck (organizer, CounterAttack 2003), Sue Blevins (president, Institute for Health Freedom), and Bill Winter (former national LP director of communications). For information, e-mail: conv03@lpma.org. Or visit: www.lpma.org.

#### April 12, 2003

Alaska LP Convention, Prospector Hotel, Juneau. Speakers include Rob Kampia (Marijuana Policy Project). For information, call Alvin Anders: (907) 790-4367. Or e-mail: aanders@ak.net.

# 3

#### April 12, 2003

Tennessee LP Convention, Realty Association Building, Nashville. Speakers include Geoffrey Neale (LP National Chair) and Tom Knapp (editor, *Rational Review*). For information, e-mail: chair@lptn.net. Or visit: www.lptn.net/.

#### ■ April 12, 2003

Kentucky LP Convention, Owl Creek Lodge, Louisville. Speakers include Willy Marshall (mayor, Big Water, Utah), Mark Rutherford (Libertarian National Committee), and John Kilpatrick (founder, Kentucky LP). For information, call Donna Mancini: (502) 254-3975. Or e-mail: disco4freedom@cs.com.

#### ■ April 25-27, 2003

**Indiana LP Convention**, Michigan City. Exact location and speakers TBA. For more information, visit: www.lpin.org.

#### ■ April 25-27, 2003

North Carolina LP Convention, University Place Hilton, Charlotte. Speakers include Dr. Mary Ruwart (author, *Healing Our World*). For information, call Elizabeth Vance: (336) 854-1950. E-mail: elizabethvance@infi.net.



#### ■ April 26, 2003

Washington state LP Convention, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle. Speakers TBA. For information, call Brien Bartels at: (206) 329-5669. Or e-mail: director@LPWS.org.

For more Upcoming Events, see page 22

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#### FIRST WORD

"Libertarianism is simplicity itself. It proceeds from a single, quite beautiful, concept of the primacy of individual liberty that, in turn, infuses notions of free markets, limited government, and the importance of property rights. In terms of public policy, these notions translate into free trade, free immigration, voluntary military service, and user fees instead of taxes. Libertarians argue for legalizing drugs; they are in favor of abortion and against the government prohibition of sex practices among consenting adults. They abhor censorship. Libertarian thought, with its fluid cultural matrix, offers a better response to some of the knottiest problems of society.

It is, especially when contrasted with the conservative cultural matrix, a postmodern attitude. In fact, it is precisely this postmodernism

that enrages conservatives who are uncomfortable with a radical acceptance that, in turn, promotes change and unfamiliarity. Yet no matter how scary (or irritating), libertarian tolerance provides a more efficient mechanism in dealing with those places where economics, politics, and culture clash so intimately."

- SUSAN LEE, The Wall Street Journal, February 17, 2003