

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY® LP NEWS

The Party of Principle®

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January 2005

The Official Monthly Newspaper of the Libertarian Party • Volume 34 / Issue 1

## OH recount creates controversy

By George Getz

LP COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The decision by 2004 Libertarian presidential candidate Michael Badnarik to play a leading role in the Ohio presidential recount is causing a bubbling controversy within the Libertarian Party itself as many members ask why Badnarik embarked on a venture that will cost taxpayers money without changing the outcome of the election.

The recount, which started Dec. 13 and was expected to last for several days, was formally requested on Dec. 7 by Badnarik and Green Party candidate David Cobb. On Dec. 6, the state officially certified President George Bush as the winner over Democrat John Kerry by 118,775 votes. Badnarik received 14,695 votes in Ohio and Cobb received 186.

Ohio's 20 electoral votes put Bush over the top, and Kerry conceded the state on Nov. 4, saying he thought there was no chance a recount would result in his victory.

The national Libertarian Party played no role in the decision to seek a recount, which was made by Badnarik himself and his campaign staff.

"The national Libertarian Party was unaware of this lawsuit until after it was filed, and no party funds have been spent in the effort," said the party's national chair, Michael Dixon. "Mr. Badnarik is making a well-intentioned effort to protect the integrity of the voting process. However, because no one anticipates that a recount will change the outcome in Ohio, the Libertarian Party prefers not to see taxpayer resources expended in this effort."

Badnarik's decision to join the lawsuit was made shortly after the Nov. 2 election, when Cobb contacted the Badnarik for President campaign. Because Cobb's name was not on the ballot in Ohio, he lacked legal standing, and needed Badnarik as a co-plaintiff. The campaign

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## GA Libertarian elected county executive

By J. Daniel Cloud

LP NEWS EDITOR

Following a hotly contested three-way race — and a two-way runoff — Libertarian Ben Brandon was elected Nov. 23, 2004, to the position of county executive in Dade County, Ga.

With his success, Brandon has become the first Libertarian elected to office in a partisan race in the Georgia Libertarian Party's 32-year history, according to Mark Mosley, chairman of the Georgia LP.

Dade County is a county of about 16,000 residents in the northwest corner of the state. Brandon won with about 66 percent of the vote — taking 1,614 votes, while his Republican opponent drew 841.

As usual, there was a much lower turnout for the runoff election than for the regular election on Nov. 2; 6,016 people cast ballots in the regular election, compared to only 2,455 in the runoff. Twenty-six percent of registered voters turned out for the runoff election.

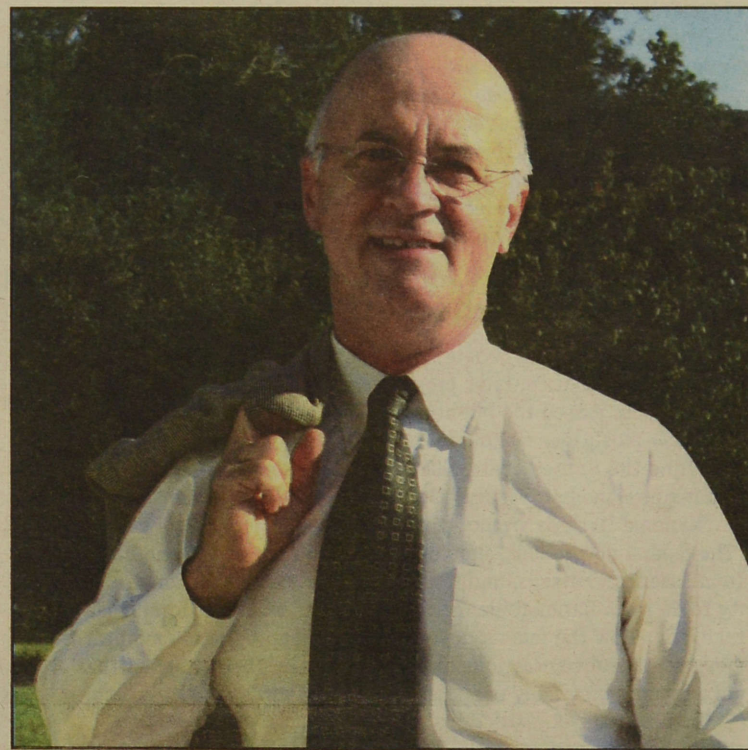
The runoff was needed because none of the three candidates received the 45 percent support required by law. Brandon received 33

percent of the regular election votes (2,001); Republican Allan Bradford, a current county commissioner, took 2,429 votes (40 percent); and Democrat Jason Ford got 1,586 votes (26 percent).

According to an election report in the Chattanooga [Tenn.] *Times-Free Press*, Dade County Election Superintendent Jan Ellison said Brandon is apparently the first candidate in county history to run as a Libertarian — and he's certainly the first Libertarian to win.

This was also the first partisan election any minor party has won in Georgia since 1968, when George Wallace's American Party carried the state in the presidential election, said Richard Winger of *Ballot Access News*, a publication that tracks third-party politics. "It may even be the first time a minor party has won a partisan election in Georgia (for office other than president) in over 100 years."

Brandon will take office in January as Dade County's first elected county executive. Voters decided in 2002 to change their form of government, to elect an executive who will both run the county's day-to-day operations and serve as chair-



■ Ben Brandon, newly elected Dade County, Ga., executive.

man of the county board of commissioners.

Previously, the post was that of a county manager who was hired by

— and worked for — the county commission, which required a master's degree and extensive business

See BEN BRANDON Page 3

## LP candidate may tip Washington governor's race



■ Ruth Bennett

Libertarian Ruth Bennett appears to have tilted the outcome of the Washington state governor's race by earning more than 63,000 votes in an election decided by a razor-thin margin of 42 votes.

In what experts are calling the closest statewide election in modern U.S. political history, Republican Dino Rossi was declared the winner on Nov. 30, following a mechanical recount of the 2.8 million ballots. He received 1,372,484 votes,

while, Democrat Christine Gregoire got 1,372,442 and Bennett received 63,416. The recount was required by state law because there was less than a 2,000-vote difference between the top two vote-getters.

Bennett says she crafted a campaign strategy emphasizing civil liberties issues in order to attract Democratic votes, and news organizations and pollsters seem to agree that she succeeded.

On Nov. 30, Secretary of State Sam Reed certified Rossi's 42-vote victory over Gregoire. The two candidates' vote totals are even closer now than they were before the mechanical recount, when they were separated by 261 votes.

And on Dec. 3, the Democrat Party announced it was willing to front the \$700,000 required to begin paying for a hand recount of the votes from all counties around the state; the party is expected to pay more than \$1 million for the complete recount, including legal fees.

Democrat leaders had discussed a partial recount, but Gregoire said she was prepared to give up her quest for the governor's seat if all

of the votes weren't counted. The count is expected to take until Dec. 23 — and even longer, if the results are contested.

Bennett said she remains convinced that Gregoire would have won the election handily, had the LP not been on the ballot.

"I think it still would have been close, but I think the Democrat would almost certainly have won," she said.

### Affecting the results

"We think the idea that Libertarians usually pull votes away from Republicans is incorrect," Bennett said. "Our research shows that Libertarians — at least here in Washington — can also take votes from Democrats in the heavily Republican districts."

"There was a poll that came out shortly before the election that showed that 'other' was drawing more heavily from the Democrats than from the Republicans. And since I was the only 'other' candidate in the race, it seemed obvious who was taking votes from the Democrats."

Bennett said she deliberately targeted the Democratic candidate in order to win political leverage for libertarian causes with both major parties in future campaigns.

Asked about her strategy of tilting the outcome in favor of the Republican, Bennett said, "That's what I was aiming to do, and that's what it looks like I did." She aimed at the left by meeting with many black groups and focusing on gay rights. Her sole newspaper ad was in the *Seattle Gay News*, she noted.

A pollster for Rossi suggested that most of Bennett's votes came at Gregoire's expense, according to the Associated Press.

If Rossi wins, he will be the first Republican governor elected in Washington since 1980.

Bennett's campaign isn't the first time that a Libertarian candidate has affected the outcome of a statewide race in Washington: In 2000, Libertarian Senate candidate Jeff Jared was credited with drawing enough conservative votes to knock Republican Sen. Slate Gorton out of office.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Texas Libertarians join anti-toll forces

The Libertarian Party of Travis County, Texas, recently announced their support for the Austin Toll Party, which is trying "to prevent the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's (CAMPO) abhorrent toll plan from coming to fruition" by calling for a recall of the CAMPO board members who support the plan, says Steve Ravet, chairman of the LP's Central Texas Regional Transportation Committee. "With no chance for the public to vote on the plan, the recall election is the only method central Texans have to fight it," Ravet said. The Austin Toll Party began circulating a recall petition immediately following a July decision to begin charging tolls on several local roads in spite of widespread opposition to the plan.

Two roads have already been removed from the list, and one CAMPO member who was targeted with a threatened recall has switched his vote to avoid being removed from office, Ravet added.

Steve Adams, endorsed by the Travis County Libertarians in his run for Austin City Council this May, expressed his support for the recall push: "When 93 percent of the voicing public states they don't want something, the people's elected representatives must vote as directed, unless their vote would violate the rights of the public or person."

### Ron Paul denounces new national ID bill

The U.S. House and Senate have passed a sweeping new intelligence bill that contains provisions for a de facto national ID card. Congress passed the bill despite having only a few hours to read the 3,000-plus pages making up the final version.

During the House debate, libertarian Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) rose to denounce the bill, particularly the national ID provisions.

"National ID cards are not proper in a free society," Paul declared. "The federal government should never be allowed to demand papers from American citizens, and it certainly has no constitutional authority to do so. A national identification card, in whatever form it may take, will allow the federal government to inappropriately monitor the movements and transactions of every American. History shows that governments inevitably use such power in harmful ways."

"Domestic travel restrictions are the hallmark of authoritarian states, not free nations," Paul continued. "It is just a matter of time until those who refuse to carry the new licenses will be denied the ability to drive or board an airplane."

"Proponents of the national ID understand that the public remains wary of the scheme, so they attempt to claim they're merely creating new standards for existing state IDs. Nonsense! This legislation ... creates a federalized ID regardless of whether the ID itself is still stamped with the name of your state."

"Those who are willing to allow the government to establish a Soviet-style internal passport system because they think it will make us safer are terribly mistaken," Paul concluded. "Subjecting every citizen to surveillance and screening points actually will make us less safe ... because it will divert resources away from tracking and apprehending terrorists and deploy them against innocent Americans!"

The bill was passed by the House 336-75, and by the Senate by a vote of 89-2.

### LP activist running for PA state senate

Libertarian activist in Pittsburgh, Pa., has been nominated to run for the state senate in an upcoming special election.

The incumbent, Jack Wagner, was elected state auditor general in November. So, he'll be vacating his senate position.

Mark Rauterkus was nominated to run for the position — and was unanimously accepted as the local Libertarian Party's candidate — at the Dec. 13 meeting of the Allegheny County Committee of the Pennsylvania LP.

The date of the special election has not been set, said Rich Loether, treasurer of the Allegheny County LP.

Rauterkus is currently fighting a bill proposed by Pittsburgh City Councilman Bill Peduto, who wants to limit contributions to candidates for city office. The measure calls for a \$2,000 limit on individual contributions to candidates in a four-year election cycle; the offices of mayor, controller and the nine-member city council would be affected.

Pittsburgh residents were able to voice their views on the proposed bill after Rauterkus started a petition drive that collected enough signatures to force the city council to hold a public hearing on the issue, according to news reports. The Libertarian said the proposed bill favors the wealthy because it places no restrictions on the amount of money candidates may spend on their own campaigns, but limits donations.

Previously, Rauterkus ran for the Republican nomination for Pittsburgh mayor in 2001, and he is currently considering another run for that position.

# David Brudnoy succumbs to cancer

By J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

Radio talk show host David Brudnoy, a Libertarian who had been on the air in Boston, Mass., for more than a quarter century, died Dec. 9, 2004, of cancer. He was 64.

For almost two decades — since 1986 — his message had been broadcast from Boston radio station WBZ-AM to 38 states and Canada.

Brudnoy announced on air in September, 2003, that he was suffering from Merkel cell carcinoma, a rare but treatable form of skin cancer. He beat the cancer last winter, returning to his show in March, but suffered a recent relapse. In a Dec. 8 interview from his hospital bed, he announced that the cancer had spread into his liver and kidneys and that he was ready to die.

"He was one of the top voices for liberty in Massachusetts for many years, and he was the last major radio voice for libertarianism in Massachusetts," said Michael Cloud, who with Carla Howell is a co-founder of the Boston-based Committee for Small Government.

Brudnoy left the Republican Party and joined the LP while speaking at the Massachusetts LP's annual convention in 1998, an event at which he was a speaker, Cloud said, but Brudnoy had been a libertarian for years before that happened — as far back as the 1970s, when he was writing for the Young Americans for Freedom's magazine, *The New Guard*.

Born in Minneapolis, Brudnoy received a bachelor's degree in Japanese studies from Yale, a master's in Far Eastern studies from Harvard, and a master's in the history of American civilization and a doctorate in history, both from Brandeis University.

Brudnoy's life brought together many apparently contradictory el-

ements: He was a longtime Republican who joined the LP. He was a gay man — a fact he revealed in 1994 — who battled AIDS for more than a decade. His memoirs (*Life is not a Rehearsal*, published in 1997) chronicled his near death from a viral infection in 1994 and subsequent struggle with HIV. And with his non-confrontational interviewing style, he was an anomaly in the world of talk radio, which is predominantly hosted in a bombastic fashion.

In a eulogy in the *National Review Online* on Dec. 10, NRO contributor Thomas Hibbs pointed out that "Brudnoy was simply the best radio host I've ever heard in any market or on any part of the AM or FM dials."

Radio talk shows on FM radio are mostly on National Public Radio, and tend to allow little "heated exchange and little listener interaction," Hibbs noted. Meanwhile, "AM talk is loud, fast-paced, with a lot of give and take between host, guest and callers. Brudnoy combined the virtues of both styles of radio talk while avoiding their vices."

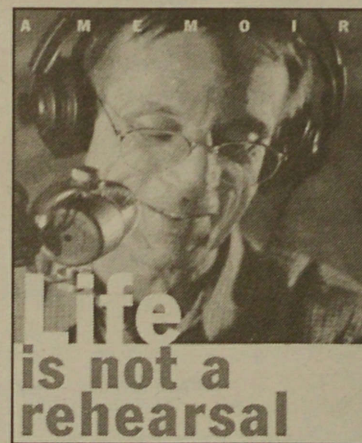
"He was smart; he was knowledgeable; he did something most of us don't do, and he did it extremely well," Cloud said. "He listened."

"And I think that's why even people who violently disagreed with him liked him. When he disagreed with them, he explained why. Many talk show hosts don't trust their ideas to carry the day, so they have to rely on hyperbole and garbage. Not David; he was very courteous."

"He was the kind of person you could be proud to point to and say, 'He's a libertarian.'"

Brudnoy was also an anomaly among talk show hosts in that "he was known for actually reading the books written by people he had as guests on his show," said Carla Howell. "He read the books, his interviews were balanced and fair, he was extremely bright and very nice as radio hosts go, and he was consistently very polite with both his guests and his callers."

"He was also dedicated to getting third-party candidates aired during elections," Howell said. "He vigorously defended and advocated for Libertarian candidates. He endorsed my senatorial campaign in 2000,



when I ran against Ted Kennedy, and in 2002, when I ran against Mitt Romney — the Republican who is now governor — he endorsed me while on the air with Romney."

"He truly was a nice guy and a delight to be with. There aren't that many prominent Libertarian radio hosts who have stuck with us; several have defected back to the Republican side, especially with the war in Iraq and the war on terror. But David Brudnoy was consistent."

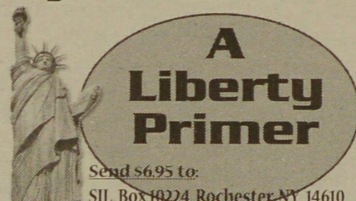
Not everyone loved Brudnoy: His radio station — a 50,000-watt Clear Channel station — tried to eliminate his show in the early 1990s, hoping to switch to cheaper syndicated programming. Both listeners and advertisers boycotted the station, however, and Brudnoy's show was back on the air within a few weeks.

In addition to his radio program, Brudnoy had lectured at several universities. Even on his deathbed, he was grading papers for his media criticism course at Boston University. And he frequently had articles published in magazines and newspapers including the *National Review*, *New Republic*, the *Saturday Evening Post* and the *New York Times*, and wrote regular movie reviews for area newspapers.

"If not for his popularity, I don't believe WBZ would have allowed someone with his political philosophy to hold such a prominent spot," Howell said. "Thousands of people have been leaving messages for him on the radio station's Web site."

"Even when people disagreed with him, they felt that he gave them a fair hearing," Cloud noted. "He was a truly 'civil' libertarian."

### Beginner's Introduction



**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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**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."**



# Ben Brandon wins runoff for county executive job

Continued from Page 1  
experience for the post.

Brandon noted on his Web site that he was the only candidate for the office who had the experience necessary for a county manager.

"In this election we will be selecting the county executive, a position equivalent to the chief executive officer of a corporation," he explained. "Dade County has a budget of \$10 million. The county manages the resources for the police and fire departments, roads, and maintenance.

"Would you hire someone with no financial management background, no personnel management experience, no public relations or public speaking background, no marketing

and sales experience? The need to have a highly qualified person in that job did not disappear just because the position is now elected instead of hired."

Brandon has 27 years of management experience at companies like AT&T and Swiss Air, where he managed a software division. He and his wife now own an electronic messaging business, Business Communication Solutions, which they started in 1994 when he left his position as a regional manager with AT&T.

"I think the victory here in Dade County was a rejection of partisan politics," he said. "I didn't win because of all the Libertarians who turned out in droves. There aren't that many Libertarians in Dade

County. I won because people recognized that the ideas I put forth — especially fiscal conservatism — are ideas we need."

Throughout his campaign, Brandon promised to be "the taxpayers' best friend" and to "manage our county efficiently and effectively while holding the line on tax increases."

For example, his Web site explains, "I'm in favor of increasing funding for recreation by creating a separate non-profit authority that could run the county's recreation facilities. It would fund itself through revenues on usage from events held at the facilities."

Brandon also explained that he believes Dade County's current bud-

get process is seriously flawed.

"It is an incremental process that assumes a department's previous budget will not only be the same as the year before but will be incrementally increased the next year," he said.

One of his biggest campaign promises was to take property owned by people aged 65 and older off of the county school board's property tax rolls.

Brandon is a Georgia Tech graduate and is an active member of a Baptist church.

"At this point, I think I could write a game plan on how to run an effective political campaign in rural Georgia," he said. "I really am honored to be breaking new ground in

the state. I hope it paves the way for other Libertarians."

Just days before the election, the national office of the Libertarian Party was alerted to the possibility that Brandon could pull off a victory, and sent the campaign a contribution.

"This was clearly a viable race, and we rushed Brandon a check to help with last-minute expenses," said LP National Chair Michael Dixon.

"On behalf of the entire Libertarian Party, I'd like to congratulate Ben Brandon and everyone who helped with this campaign. The voters of Dade County have asked for a smaller, more responsible government; now it's his job to deliver it."

# Badnarik's role in Ohio recount leads to intra-party friction

Continued from Page 1  
team also considered challenging the outcome in New Mexico and Nevada, but Badnarik said those plans have been put on hold.

"On Election Day we received e-mails from dozens of people on our list saying something funny was going on in Ohio — that votes weren't being counted correctly," said Fred Collins, Badnarik's campaign chair. "We felt that joining the lawsuit was something we could do at no cost to us, and said we'd be willing to participate. I don't believe the vote count will change dramatically. But this will go a long way toward making sure that votes will be counted accurately in the future."

Collins said the driving forces behind the recount are nonpartisan watchdog groups and the Greens, who raised more than 90 percent of the funds — not the Libertarians.

Badnarik pointed out that he and Cobb are being represented by attorney John Bonifaz, founder of the nonpartisan National Voting Rights Institute, who is doing the case pro bono.

"He contacted us and offered his services, and said the only way he was willing to do the case was if it was for both of us, to ensure that it would be nonpartisan," Badnarik said. "He wouldn't have taken the case if it was only for one of us."

Under Ohio law, the parties seeking the recount are required to pay \$10 per precinct, or \$113,600 statewide. Badnarik and Cobb raised the required money.

However, the Ohio secretary of state's office claims that the actual cost of the recount is closer to \$1.5 million.

In mid-November, the two candidates announced their plan to file for a recount, citing "widespread reports of irregularities in the Ohio voting process."

The announcement triggered a wave of national publicity and became the topic of discussion on cable TV news shows such as CNBC's "Hardball" and MSNBC's "Countdown."

Most of the print coverage fo-

cused on the cost of the recount, and press reports were especially critical in Ohio.

In a Dec. 9 interview with the *Findlay Courier*, Allen County Board of Elections Director Keith Cunningham denounced the recount effort as "an outrage" and a "theft."

He said the recount in his county will cost \$6,000 to \$12,000, even though he received only \$1,390 from Badnarik and Cobb.

**MOST OF THE  
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A Dec. 9 article in the *Chillicothe Gazette*, headlined "Local board disgusted by last-ditch efforts," quoted recount director Nancy Bell as predicting that the \$10-per-precinct fee "won't even cover one day" of the estimated three-day process.

And an article on the same day in the *Toledo Blade* began, "The Green Party and Libertarian Party have triggered a recount of the Nov. 2 presidential election in Lucas County, a recount that will cost taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars."

As a result of the news coverage, phone calls and e-mails streamed into the Ohio LP, according to State Chair Jason Hallmark.

"As you can imagine, Republicans hate us, Democrats and Greens like us, but not enough to actually support us financially or join our party," said Hallmark, who added that the Ohio LP was not informed about the lawsuit in advance. "It is unfortunate that the media keeps labeling this as an action initiated by the Libertarian Party. We cannot stress enough that the recount

is not in any way an action by the Libertarian Party of Ohio. No party funds have been spent to aid this action in any way."

Hallmark said the state's estimate of the recount costs are overblown, because it is counting the hours that election boards would have been paying their employees in any case.

The publicity also sparked criticism from within the LP, as many members complained that the Greens and Democrats were using Badnarik as a tool with which to challenge Bush's victory.

Longtime California LP member Manny Klausner said, "I'm puzzled by the Badnarik campaign joining the legal actions to obtain a recount in Ohio and other states where Bush won — but apparently not in states where Kerry won by narrow margins. It seems to me that for the Badnarik campaign to seek to impose massive costs on taxpayers for an ill-considered recount makes no sense for anyone who is a principled Libertarian."

Party founder David Nolan said the recount makes Badnarik "look like a tool of the Kerry campaign. Also, this effort appears to be part of an ill-considered effort to build an alliance with the Cobb wing of the Green Party, who have nothing to offer us."

Richard Rider, a leader in the San Diego LP, added, "Perception is everything. Too many will interpret our effort as pro-Kerry. At this point, if we can, we should back out of this mess. Let the Greens run with it. Clearly, it's their show anyway."

Badnarik responded to the criticism by saying, "At first I was a bit surprised. I never thought about a recount until I received about two dozen passionate requests to do so from Libertarians in various states."

"I asked several people if they could think of any reasons not to participate in the recount — then I made the best decision I could with the information available to me at the time. Of course, you will always find Libertarians who have the opposite opinion on any issue, so I'm

not surprised that support is not unanimous throughout the party."

As far as backing out of the lawsuit, Badnarik said: "The recount is going to continue with or without Libertarian support, so changing course isn't an option at this time. The purpose of the recount has always been to uncover voting irregularities (which certainly exist) and to attempt to determine the extent to which they took place. A recount may not be the most efficient way to put an end to vote fraud, but doing so should be high on everyone's list of priorities."

Other Libertarians voiced support for Badnarik. According to Sean Haugh, a former Libertarian National Committee representative, "This has advanced cooperation between us and the Greens and others of the left. And I'm not terribly concerned about the cost. The purpose of the recount is to uncover corruption and errors in the vote-counting

**OUR JOB AS  
Libertarians is  
to challenge  
government power....  
If not us, who?  
If not now, when?  
—BARB GOUSHAW-COLLINS**

process. I know it's taxpayer money, but beyond that I really don't have a problem making government pay for uncovering their own corruption and incompetence."

Trevor M. Southerland, chair of the National Libertarian Party Youth Caucus, agrees.

"This has generated a lot of publicity for the party," he says. "It has also given us a better relationship with Greens, and helped us appeal to some Democrats who are upset at what they consider the too-soon concession of Sen. Kerry."

Both supporters and opponents of the suit agree that Libertarians

have good reason to be suspicious of Ohio election officials. In November 2003, Republican Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell used a technicality to throw out more than 60,000 ballot access petition signatures collected by the Ohio LP, a ruling that left Libertarians angry.

Blackwell said the petition forms were illegal because a space had been added for signers to put their last names, and because a sentence about the legal penalty for falsification was slightly different from the state's mandatory language.

Ohio Libertarians point out that Republican Party officials have made a concerted effort to keep Libertarians off the ballot to protect GOP candidates, and note that Blackwell also chaired the Bush-Cheney campaign in Ohio.

The state LP had spent two years and about \$50,000 collecting the signatures, which would have let all candidates appear on the ballot with a partisan label, including Badnarik. Instead, Badnarik had to appear on the Ohio ballot as an "other party" candidate.

At the time, *Ballot Access News* publisher Richard Winger said, "Ohio's action in disqualifying a petition with over 60,000 names, just because the format and wording are slightly different from the approved form, is unheard of in other states."

Barbara Goushaw-Collins, co-director of the Badnarik campaign, says the track record of Ohio officials, combined with voting irregularities reported after the election, is sufficient to justify a recount.

"The major complaint is that we're doing this because we don't like Republicans — which is flat-out silly," she said. "Our job as Libertarians is to challenge government power. This is a state where they arbitrarily pitched tens of thousands of our petitions, and we're the only ones trying to keep the system honest."

"This recount action is perfectly consistent with who we are and what we do. If not us, who? If not now, when?"



## THE ISSUES

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** "The Issues" highlights recent Libertarian Party press releases. To get the complete text of LP press releases, send a message to [announcerequest@lp.org](mailto:announcerequest@lp.org) with the word "Subscribe" in the subject line.

### U.N. corruption: Don't mend it; end it

The ongoing scandal over the Oil-for-Food program should cause Americans to ask the following question, Libertarians say: Why is the government funding the United Nations in the first place?

"No one should be surprised that the Oil-for-Food program has been used to grease the palms of corrupt politicians," said LP Executive Director Joseph Seehusen. "Waste and fraud have long been rampant in the U.N. bureaucracy. The real scandal is that U.S. politicians aren't even considering pulling the plug on U.N. funding."

Allegations that Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein managed to siphon \$10 billion from the Oil-for-Food program and funnel payments to hundreds of corrupt government officials and contractors have roiled the U.N. bureaucracy, sparked demands for the resignation of the secretary-general and prompted a congressional investigation.

But Libertarians have a better solution for U.N. corruption: End it; don't mend it. Along with other flaws, funding the U.N. is a grave mistake because U.N. funds are used to prop up foreign dictators.

"Take just one example: Saddam Hussein," Seehusen pointed out. "The Oil-for-Food program funneled over \$67 billion to the Iraqi government between 1997 and 2002, helping to pay for the weapons that Saddam used to slaughter both his own people and some of the U.S. troops that invaded Iraq."

### Sen. McCain, please sit down!

Libertarians are calling for a strict separation of sport and state in response to Sen. John McCain's threat to intervene in the baseball steroid controversy.

"Will Sen. John McCain please sit down?" asked Joseph Seehusen, LP executive director. "Major League Baseball is perfectly capable of handling this problem without the help of the federal government."

In response to revelations that New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi and San Francisco Giants outfielder Barry Bonds admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs, the Arizona Republican is warning the players' union to toughen its policy on steroid use as it meets this week in Phoenix.

But in this case, grandstanding politicians should stay in the grandstands, where they belong, Libertarians say.

"The government already intrudes into our businesses, our schools, and almost every other aspect of our lives," Seehusen said. "It would be one small but significant victory if we could declare just one area completely off limits to the government. How about a complete separation of sport and state?"

The Libertarian proposal: Let baseball decide the rules of baseball.

### D.C. Council rejects stadium welfare deal

The national Libertarian Party is saluting the Washington, D.C., city council for torpedoing a "sports welfare" scheme that would have built a new Major League Baseball stadium with taxpayer funds.

"Let's play ball, but let's play it with private money," said Joseph Seehusen, LP executive director. "It's not every day that Libertarians cheer our local government, but in this case the praise is well-deserved. Let's tear up this welfare check for baseball millionaires."

Seehusen placed a congratulatory phone call to Linda W. Cropp, the Democrat chairman of the D.C. Council, who shocked her colleagues by insisting that half the money for a new baseball stadium come from private financing.

The legislation, which was approved on a 7-6 vote, unravels a deal struck between Major League Baseball and Mayor Anthony Williams that required the city to pay for a new stadium to house the former Montreal Expos. Williams now has until June to line up private financing to cover 50 percent of the stadium's cost.

Noting that polls show a majority of residents oppose a taxpayer-funded stadium, Seehusen said the vote is a huge victory for the people of Washington, DC.

"Washington residents narrowly escaped getting mugged by their own mayor," Seehusen said. "Thank goodness that one council member with a conscience had the courage to stand up and stop them. Three cheers for Linda Cropp."

The Libertarian solution to sports welfare: Replace stadium taxes with user fees.

"It makes no more sense to force one person to pay for another's baseball ticket than to force him to pay for another's golf clubs, groceries or gasoline," Seehusen added.

# 42 Elected: 2004 wrap-up

At least 12 more names can be added to the list of Libertarians elected or appointed to public office in 2004 — meaning that this year a minimum of 42 Libertarian Party members have been added to the hundreds already in office throughout the nation.

This number is unusually high for a presidential election year: In 2000, 34 victories for Libertarians were reported, and in 1996, only seven candidates were elected to office. By contrast, more Libertarians usually reach office in a non-presidential election year. In 2002, 43 were elected to office.

The names of 11 Libertarian election-winners on this year's Election Day were listed in the December 2004 issue of *LP News*. Add to that list the following:

■ Ben Brandon was elected as Dade County, Ga.'s, first county executive in a runoff election on Nov. 23, to become the first Libertarian elected to office in a partisan race in the Georgia LP's 32-year history. [See story on Page 1]

■ Mark Smith, one of the Indiana

LP's candidates for Wayne County Council at-large in November's general election, was appointed in late November to the Centerville Planning Commission. He was not elected to county council. Smith is the manager of Carter Lumber in Centerville.

And Libertarians in California should be especially commended: Eight LP members there have been elected (or re-elected) to office, according to California LP Chair Aaron Starr, and one was appointed to a board by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

■ Jim Hill was elected to the Oceano Community Services District board, and Vern Dahl was re-elected to the same board.

■ "Longtime CALP member Eric Anderson, of San Diego County, was appointed by Schwarzenegger to our regional water quality board," reports Richard Rider of the California LP. Anderson is vice president of La Costa Flower Shop and Nursery Inc. where he oversees all daily operations. Anderson has also served as director of the San Diego County

Farm Bureau for over 12 years and was president from 1996-1998.

■ Phillip Leavitt was re-elected to the Carlotta Community Services District Board.

■ Linda Strom was re-elected to the Lakeside Community Planning District.

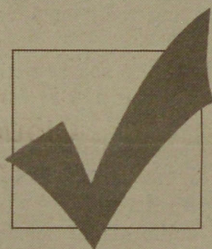
■ Frank Manske was elected to the Mount Diablo Health Care District board. [See story, December 2004 LP News; Manske was inadvertently left out of the tally.]

■ Robert R. Mendez was re-elected to the Vista Irrigation Division No. 2.

■ Laural Kieney was re-elected to the Esparto Community Services District Board.

■ Kathleen O'Brien was re-elected to the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District.

And the name of Leslee Berryman, who was elected earlier this year to the Seminole County, Fla., Soil and Water District, was left off December's list of dozens of candidates who were elected or appointed to office before Election Day.



Congratulations and a hearty "Thank You!" to the hundreds of Libertarians who ran for federal, state or local office in 2004.

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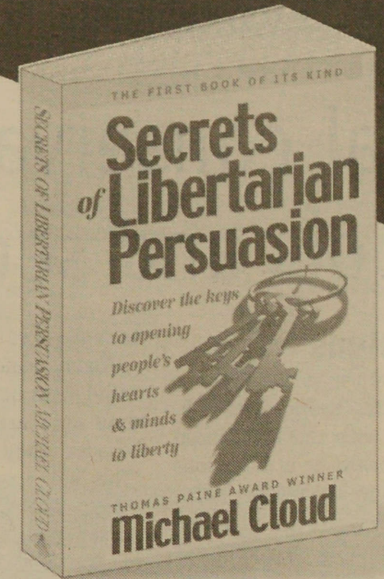


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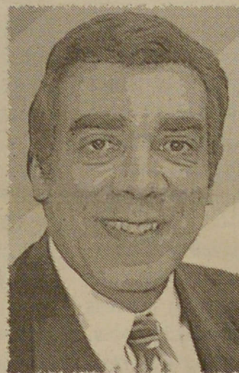


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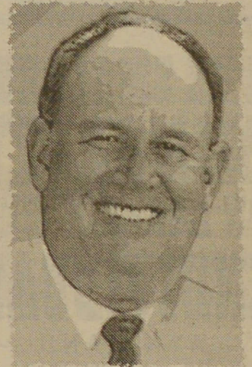


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## TALKING POINTS

# Social conservatives, state-run schools and security overkill

## Road signs

Hans Monderman is a traffic engineer who hates traffic signs. Oh, he can put up with the well-placed speed limit placard or a dangerous curve warning on a major highway, but Monderman considers most signs to be not only annoying but downright dangerous. To him, they are an admission of failure, a sign — literally — that a road designer somewhere hasn't done his job. "The trouble with traffic engineers is that when there's a problem with a road, they always try to add something," Monderman says. "To my mind, it's much better to remove things."

From the beginning, a central premise guiding American road design was that driving and walking were utterly incompatible modes of transport, and that the two should

be segregated as much as possible.

Today some of the most car-oriented areas in the US are rethinking their approaches to traffic, mainly because they have little choice. "The old way doesn't work anymore," says Gary Toth, director of project planning and development for the New Jersey Department of Transportation.

—Tom McNichol  
Wired  
December 2004

## Security conscious

A judge on Thursday ordered two police officers and 27 other people to stand trial in the fiery mob killing of two federal agents and the savage beating of a third. Dozens of residents in a town on Mexico City's outskirts collared three plainclothes agents who had been photographing a school on Nov. 23. Worried that the trio might be kidnappers, the crowd attacked them. The violence was captured on videotape, which showed the agents being doused with paint thinner and set ablaze.

—Associated Press  
December 3, 2004

## Tom Ridge is gone

Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge, whose name became synonymous with color-coded terror alerts and tutorials about how to prepare for possible attack, resigned Tuesday, saying he was confident the United States is significantly safer than before the 2001 terrorist strikes.

As the nation's first chief of the new Department of Homeland Security, Ridge presided over a collection of 22 disparate federal agencies and 180,000 employees.

He acknowledged he could not prove the enormously expensive

and complex security measures put in place since 2001 have foiled any terrorist attacks inside the United States but said he was certain that, because of the changes, terrorists know that "America is a different place to work and operate in."

—Washington Post Express  
December 1, 2004

## State-run schools

It is essential to understand that state-controlled schools are not a natural phenomenon. Instead, they represent a government takeover of vibrant, private-sector initiatives that were voluntarily funded by parents and willingly undertaken by children eager to learn.

There is a vast difference between the lifelong process of learning and what goes on in state-run schools. In fact, state schools serve a purpose very different from mere learning: they serve to mold minds and create obedient subjects. ...

Instead of promoting the separation of school and state as a concept vital to a free society (the modern corollary of separation of church and state), conservatives and liberals alike have sponsored the contamination of the learning process to achieve social-engineering goals.

The result is a system of doctrinal inculcation reminiscent of the dystopia depicted by George Orwell in the novel 1984. Widespread acceptance of the mindless slogan "United We Stand" is an indicator of this change. To a skeptical mind, this phrase is an attempt by cowardly politicians and their adherents to hide themselves in a crowd — using other citizens as "human shields" to protect them from the violent blowback directed against the American empire and its expansionist foreign policy. It pretends that no other viewpoint exists. Even worse, it is not so much an appeal to unity as a demand for conformity — substituting blind nationalism for a shared devotion to freedom.

Having graduated from state-run slogan factories, Americans have no philosophical grounding in the importance of liberty and its intrinsic connection to morality.

—Lawrence Ludlow  
The Future of Freedom Foundation  
December 1, 2004

## Antitrust law

Antitrust laws — statutes that supposedly keep any one firm or group of firms from dominating the marketplace — are thought by some to be the bulwark of free enterprise.

Without the continued vigilance of the government, so the argument

goes, large corporations would ruthlessly destroy their smaller rivals and then raise prices and profits at consumers' expense.

But antitrust has a dark side; it often is used to the detriment of the consumers it's supposed to protect.

More than two centuries ago, in *The Wealth of Nations*, Adam Smith observed that "people of the same trade seldom meet together ... but the conversation ends in a conspiracy against the public or in some contrivance to raise prices."

Coming from the father of *laissez faire*, that warning has been cited ad nauseam by antitrust proponents to justify all manner of interventionist mischief. Those same proponents, whether carelessly or devotously, rarely mention Smith's next sentence: "It is impossible indeed to prevent such meetings, by any law which either could be executed, or would be consistent with liberty and justice."

—Robert A. Levy  
Apple Daily  
November 17, 2004

## Expensive free trade

Development economists have, for decades, advocated increased trade between rich and poor countries as the best way to combat developing-world poverty. Empirical evidence suggests that people in countries that are more economically integrated with the rest of the world enjoy a higher standard of living.

The benefits of free trade were not always appreciated. After World War II, most developing countries tried to achieve prosperity through protectionism. Imports were seen as a drag on capital formation, which was deemed a prerequisite for economic development. Instead, developing countries tried to use inter-governmental aid to spur economic growth. That approach did not work. Many poor countries today are heavily indebted but remain underdeveloped. No wonder that Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni stated during his 2003 visit to Washington, "I don't want aid; I want trade. Aid cannot transform society."

—Marian L. Tupy  
Investors Business Daily  
November 26, 2004

## Drug War toll

In Washington, D.C., a 27-year old quadriplegic is sentenced to 10 days in jail for marijuana possession, where he dies under suspicious circumstances. In Florida, a wheelchair-bound multiple sclerosis patient now serves a 25-year prison sentence for using an out-of-state doctor to obtain pain medication. And in Palestine, Texas, prosecutors arrest 72 people — all of them black — and charge them with distributing crack cocaine. The scene bears a remarkable resemblance to a similar mass, mostly-black drug bust in nearby Tulsa five years ago.

These examples aren't exceptional. They're typical. America's drug war marches on, impervious to efficacy, justice, or absurdity.

Drug prohibition was nowhere to be found in Election 2004. There was no mention of it in the debates, the conventions, or the endless cable news campaign coverage.

In some ways, that was a blessing. Campaign discussion of drug prohibition has too often focused on which candidate took what drugs when, and who was more sorry for having done so.

While it's refreshing that we've moved beyond apologies, it's also true that under the laws many of today's politicians support, a kid who experiments with illicit drugs the same way many of them once did may not get the chance to finish school or go to college, much less run for political office.

—Radley Balko  
Cato Daily Commentary  
December 2, 2004

## Wine and weed

The U.S. Supreme Court can ignore the usual liberal-vs.-conservative divide in the next two weeks when it takes up California-centric cases on medical marijuana and the direct shipping of wine to consumers. Instead, the justices will be forced to decide between competing versions of conservatism.

The social conservatives seek more government enforcement in areas including abortion, pornography, drugs, immigration and gay rights. The small-government, free-market conservatives seek fewer restrictions on private behavior.

It's a clash that is likely to echo in Washington, D.C., in the years ahead, as Republican control of all three branches of the government potentially could sideline Democrats and expose philosophical rifts within the GOP.

—David Savage  
Los Angeles Times  
November 29, 2004

## Abuse registry

The Department of Children and Families is facing criticism for its confidential registry of child abusers and neglecters, a list used by others for background checks regardless of whether criminal investigations have cleared the accused.

Lawyers who work child protection cases say there are hundreds, and maybe thousands, of people whom DCF cited for child abuse and neglect between 1996 and 2000 but were never told their names were placed on the registry. Employers and other state agencies have used the list for state-mandated background checks since 1996.

Child-care workers, parents, legal guardians and others cited for abuse or neglect are placed on the registry. People on the list are barred from becoming foster or adoptive parents, denied jobs in child care and prevented from operating home day-care businesses.

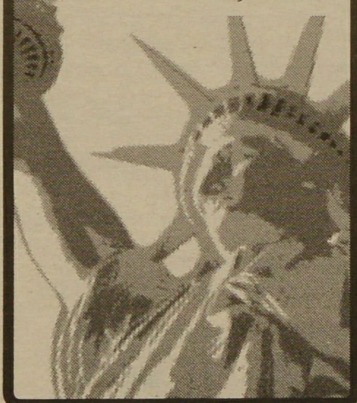
The child protection lawyers say the registry is like a modern-day scarlet letter that can plague those listed for years.

—Newsday.com  
December 5, 2004

**"THE SMALLEST  
MINORITY  
ON EARTH IS THE  
INDIVIDUAL."**

— AYN RAND —

Not to argue with Ayn Rand (who would dare to?), but sometimes it seems that the smallest minority on Earth are the Libertarians. There just aren't as many of us as there should be. That's why the support of each individual Libertarian Party member is so crucial for our party to succeed. And Job One (for all of us) is to figure out ways to get more Libertarians. Here's one way you can do your part to help the party grow: Name the party in your will or insurance policy. For a confidential discussion of this option, call National LP Treasurer Mark Nelson at (563) 344-0013. Or e-mail him at: treasurer@lp.org, and include "Planned Giving" in the subject line.



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# Ohio LP fights eminent domain abuse in Columbus

**L**ibertarians in Ohio are trying to find a way to help a neighborhood in Columbus. A property developer plans to ask city officials to declare the neighborhood "blighted" so he can destroy hundreds of homes and build a shopping center on a nearby industrial site.

Some of the 200 homes are currently vacant, but most of the historic Milo-Grogan neighborhood is populated by "elderly homeowners on fixed incomes" who would be forcibly removed, said Robert Butler, executive director of the Libertarian Party of Ohio.

According to media reports, up to 20 of the homes in the Milo-Grogan neighborhood were built by Habitat for Humanity, a charitable organization that helps low-income people build homes that otherwise they would not be able to afford to purchase.

Now, the city of Columbus is considering using its "eminent domain" powers to take the homes and land, granting it to the developer — a gross misuse of the government's power to take land for public use, Butler and other Ohio Libertarians say.

"In neighborhoods stretching the length and breadth of Ohio, local governments are using this process to help developers build shopping malls when local residents refuse to sell their homes for below market-value," Butler said.

"Milo-Grogan will now join Lakewood, Norwood, and Trotwood in the list of neighborhoods where citizens' homes came under government attack. Average citizens realize only too late that their homes are never really their own. A developer can convince a government official to force you out, and you are paid whatever amount that official feels appropriate."

"Eminent domain abuse shows complete disrespect for America's tradition of private property," said Jason Hallmark, chairman of the Ohio Libertarian Party. "The government exists to defend our property, not take it away."

Hallmark, who recently ran for the state House of Representatives in Dayton, said he made eminent domain abuse a central issue in his campaign because "most people have no idea how easily the government can take their home away until it happens to them."

Unfortunately, most people he spoke with about eminent domain while campaigning didn't know what the term means — "but if you talk to people for five minutes and explain that it means the government can allow someone else to take their homes away, they without fail end up shaking their heads and saying how wrong that system is," Hallmark said.

In his race, he drew about 1,850 votes — approximately 5 percent of the vote in a four-way race.

While the eminent domain

confiscation of these properties in Columbus is still only a threat — not a promise — the Libertarians plan "to meet with the neighbors affected by this possible abuse," Butler said. "We will go door to door to speak with homeowners and provide them with a forum to meet and plan coordinated action."

"We want to inform them of the legal resources that may be available

to them, such as the Institute for Justice. We also want them to know that the Libertarian Party of Ohio will support and help them as much as we can."

The Ohio LP consistently makes property rights a central issue — including a recent fight in support of business owners in Norwood, another place where the city council wanted to take condemn privately

owned businesses and homes to allow a shopping center to be built.

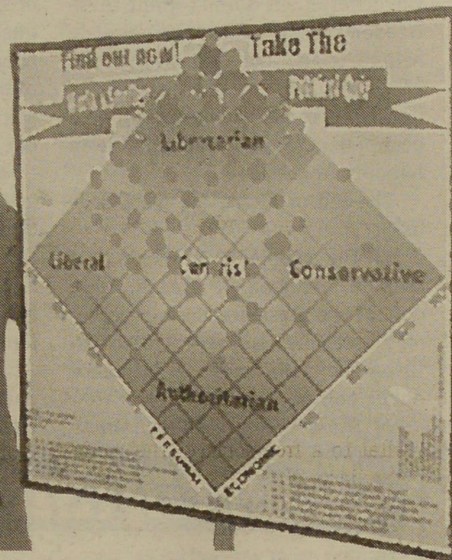
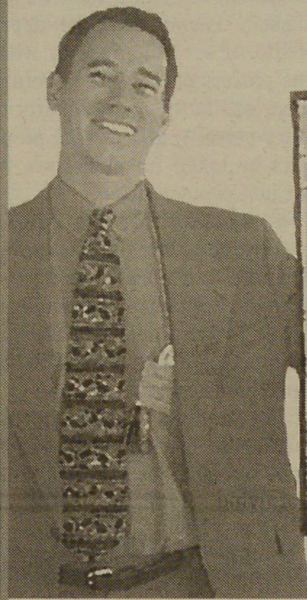
"We were there in May, on the night the town council heard the proposal and took the study under advisement," Hallmark said. "After the council accepted the study, the Institute for Justice filed a lawsuit to stop it. The court ruled that the situation was an abuse of eminent domain, but ruled that it

was acceptable because the area was deteriorating. Essentially, they said the city was wrong, but that they could proceed."

An appeal was filed, and the issue is still in litigation, he said.

"Ohio is a developer's dream come true," Hallmark added. "Why pay fair market value, when a city council can simply take the land they want?"

## DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 15, 2005



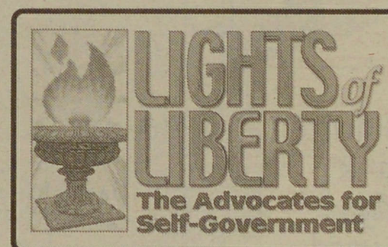
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## THE ADVOCATES FOR SELF-GOVERNMENT'S Lights of Liberty Awards

Photo: Colorado Libertarian Steve Gallant poses by a World's Smallest Political Quiz "Diamond Chart" poster at an OPH booth at Conifair 2004, August 28-29.



## GUEST COMMENTARY

# Bill of Rights Day celebrates freedom, reminds us to be vigilant

Dec. 15, was the 64th annual Bill of Rights Day, a national observance that was signed into practice by President Franklin Roosevelt on Dec. 15, 1941, 150 years after the ratification of the document by our forefathers in 1791.

This day should remind all Americans of their commitment to individual freedom. The day should also remind politicians and bureaucrats that their power is limited — that the government serves the citizens, and does not rule us.

During the debates on the adoption of the U.S. Constitution in 1787, opponents of the Constitution charged that the document as drafted would open the door to a tyrannical central government. George Mason led the charge of delegates who refused to sign it without a bill of rights that would spell out the freedoms of individual citizens. Others feared that enumerating a bill of

rights would imply that these were the only rights people had.

The Bill of Rights was finally adopted four years after the Constitution was written, and the Ninth and 10th Amendments were included to make it clear that the Bill of Rights was not a comprehensive list of individual rights, only the beginning.

Dr. James Lark III, a former national chairman of the Libertarian Party and current member of the Libertarian National Committee who is a University of Virginia professor, has said that the Bill of Rights exemplifies a remarkable and unique notion in the world that our government exists to protect our rights, not to grant them.

Although Libertarians celebrate this day, they also lament that our freedoms have been under attack since the moment the Bill of Rights was ratified.

Lark wrote in a recent op-ed, "As Thomas Jefferson noted, the natural progress of things is for liberty to yield and government to gain ground. We have now reached a point where the federal government is involved in most aspects of our

lives, including controlling what substances we can ingest for our health, safety and comfort; determining for what wage rates we can offer our own labor; and regulating with whom we will associate in private commercial transactions."

Take the time to read over the Bill of Rights and hold the laws you see being passed today at the federal, state, and local levels under its microscope.

Many of the laws don't seem to acknowledge the concepts that people have inherent freedom; that the government doesn't grant these freedoms to us because they already belong to us; and that the powers of government should be severely limited, because whenever you give government power, you take away freedom from people.

The Bill of Rights (in plain English):

1) The people have freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble, and freedom to petition the government to influence public policy.

2) The people have the right to

keep and bear firearms.

3) The people will not be forced to house soldiers.

4) The people are protected from unreasonable searches and seizures of their persons and properties. Warrants, based upon probable cause, are needed for searches and certain arrests.

5) Any person accused of a crime shall have a trial by jury; he cannot be tried twice for the same crime; and he cannot be compelled to offer evidence against himself. People can't be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law (the government must act fairly and similarly with every person); and private property can't be taken for public use without just compensation.

6) A person has the right to a speedy and public trial by an impartial jury, and must be informed of the nature of the accusations against him and have a right to question his accusers. He also has the right to be represented by an attorney.

7) The right to trial by jury is guaranteed in civil cases (cases between private parties or between a

private party and the government) heard in federal courts.

8) Courts shall not impose excessive bail, nor excessive fines, nor cruel and unusual punishments upon those accused or convicted of crimes.

9) The rights defined by the Bill of Rights are not the only ones we have. We have other rights that are inherent in being free people.

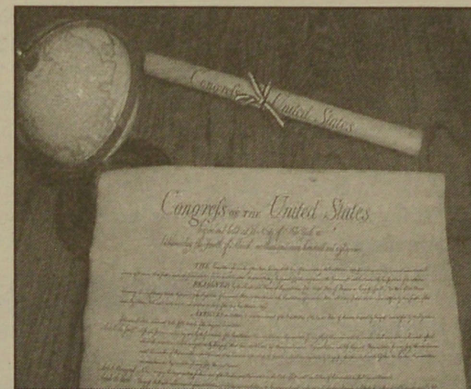
10) The powers that are not expressly given

to the federal government nor denied to the states in the Constitution belong to the states or to the people.

The 14th Amendment, ratified in 1868, makes the laws (including the Bill of Rights) that bind the federal government also bind the state governments.

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■ **About the author:** Brian Gottstein is a libertarian who runs a political consulting, public relations and marketing firm in Roanoke, Va.



The Power of Just One Signature

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

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## THE FORUM

# Examining the pros and cons of instant runoff voting

On Oct. 8, Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. [D-Ill.] introduced a bill (H.R. 5293, the Majority Vote Act of 2004) that would require all states to conduct general elections for federal office using an instant runoff voting, or IRV, system — and to comply by 2008.

According to the Web site [www.FairVote.com](http://www.FairVote.com), Jackson said, "The term 'instant runoff voting system' means a system for the election of candidates under which 'runoff counts' of candidates are conducted in rounds.

"Voters vote by ranking candidates on the ballot according to the order of their preference. If in any round no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast, the candidate with the fewest number of votes is eliminated and the remaining candidates advance to the next round. In each round a voter shall be considered to have cast one vote for the candidate the voter ranked highest on the ballot that has not been eliminated. The runoff counts are carried out automatically at the time the votes are cast and tabulated so there is no actual second election. [Candidates are] elected only when they reach 50 percent plus one."

Upon being submitted, Jackson's bill was referred to the House Committee on House Administration for review. It had no co-sponsors.

Because a new Congress has been elected, Jackson will have to decide in 2005 whether he wants to re-submit the bill for consideration.

On Nov. 2, three communities across the country approved the use of IRV in local elections.

The LP Platform proposes "electoral systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state and local levels," specifically calling for the use of "instant runoff voting for single-winner elections."

Of course, there is debate within the party about whether the IRV push can succeed, or whether it would be the best solution.

The following are a few of the comments on IRV submitted by Libertarians in recent weeks.

■ IRV doesn't help outsiders "win." It merely allows voters to give some consolation to an outsider yet still fall into line behind a major party candidate — thereby eliminating the threat of vote splitting and major parties' need to address outside party issues.

Further, because IRV throws away so much ranking information as candidates are eliminated, IRV has a polarizing effect, induc-

ing candidates to seek precious first-place votes by sacrificing the interests of others. This leaves an inoffensive candidate, such as our Libertarians, as "everybody's second choice", which IRV tragically eliminates before those second-place votes are exercised.

If Libertarians are to back any electoral reform, then we must get behind one without IRV's deep flaws. Condorcet ranked pairs is the gold standard against which other voting methods are scored, but it can be hard to explain, and it would require equipment for casting ranked ballots — just as IRV does.

However, approval voting is nearly as good as Condorcet, can be implemented on current equipment, and is simple to explain: Each voter votes up or down on each candidate, and the candidate who earns the most approval votes in each race wins (with an optional 50 percent minimum). See [www.approvalvoting.org](http://www.approvalvoting.org) for more information.

—JEFF FISHER  
Vancouver, Washington

■ I will support Rep. Jackson and his H.R. 5293 but I believe it will be defeated.

IRV is way too complicated.

When you keep track of so many ballots, you will have to scan them.

Voting "1, 2, 3, etc." is hard to keep up with scanners — which would have trouble telling the numbers apart. It is impossible for the scanner to be accurate. You will have to get more expensive machines to keep up with IRV numbers (and pay for them with taxes), if such a machine is even available.

And voting with IRV will take much more time than it takes now. The voter will pick easily who to cast their "1" vote for, but as the numbers increase, it will get more difficult to choose.

IRV voting is better than "pick one of the following choices," but I have something better to actually pick the best man (or woman) to run for office: approval voting, which is the same as we have now, with one exception. Instead of choosing "one" candidate for the job, you will choose "one or more" candidates for the job. Approval voting could run with the same machines we currently use, it is simple to do, and we don't have "wasted time" with run-

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offs, as we would with IRV.

Approval voting would be eminently practicable and easy to understand, it would increase voter turnout, it would help elect the strongest candidate, it gives voters flexible and simple options, and it would give minority candidates their proper due.

—THOMAS BELL  
Midwest City, Oklahoma

■ The Florida LP has voted to endorse a statewide ballot initiative in Florida to switch their outdated elections system from plurality voting to IRV. The Coalition for Instant Runoff Voting in Florida (CIRV) is working on local ballot initiatives to implement IRV. The first target for implementation is Sarasota City, Florida. The Sarasota County Libertarians have also endorsed this measure.

Plurality voting allows for a candidate to win with a minority of the voters supporting that candidate. IRV's "process of elimination" continues until someone emerges with a majority or until only two candidates remain and the one with the most votes is declared the winner.

As voters become more confident that voting their conscience won't amount to "wasting their vote" or

relegate third-party candidates to "spoiler" status, voters will be much more likely to actually vote as their conscience leads them. They can vote for their first choice, then for the "lesser of two evils" over what they consider the greater evil.

IRV also increases turnout by allowing more choices to be on the ballot. Because IRV would allow for greater diversity, voter increase would increase; voter turnout has gone up in areas that have implemented IRV.

IRV would also eliminate the need for a second runoff election, which traditionally has much lower turnout, and thus produces results less representative of the populace.

The feeling in Florida is that we need to implement IRV in local elections to expand public awareness of how IRV works and what the benefits are of this method of voting.

Personally, I was disappointed [during the campaign season] to only hear the Green Party and Reform Party candidates discussing IRV.

—ANTHONY LORENZO  
Sarasota, Florida

■ What separates the Badnarik campaign from all previous campaigns is the cooperation we have achieved with the Green Party. Beginning with ballot access and getting friendly acceptance at their conventions was helped by working together on a grassroots level against stadium socialism, the Iraq War, the Patriot Act and the War Against Some Drugs.

In 2004 this crystallized into the friendly Badnarik/Cobb debates, their arrest in St. Louis and now the vote recount effort in Ohio, Nevada

and New Mexico. The idea was that by co-operating we could break into media that we couldn't get alone.

As important as this is, the next phase will be even more mutually beneficial to our coalition and to democracy as well. This plan will destroy our greatest obstacles — the wasted vote and spoiler arguments.

IRV and proportional representation are used in many countries and as a consequence third parties are strong and respected.

Greens as well as Libertarians must realize that IRV should be our first priority if we are to survive. What we need to target are areas that have an open-minded, tolerant and intelligent voter base.

In the next elections we need to target local and county referenda where an initiative process is available. This means liberal cities, college towns and areas emphasizing the arts, tourism and a high-tech economic base. We do well in those areas and so do the Greens.

Democrats and Republicans as well as other minority groups may be interested in helping achieve these options — whether to increase their clout or simply as a show of good citizenship.

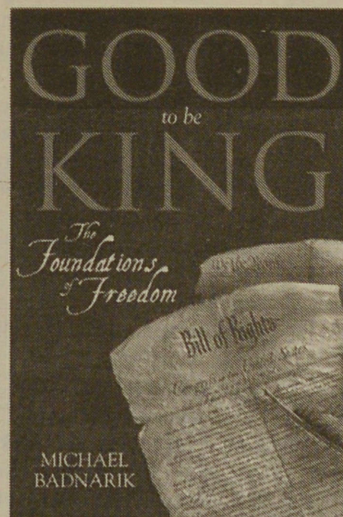
A left/right coalition is vital here, as well as the need to keep focused on the single issue.

—DON MEINSHAUSEN  
Hoboken, New Jersey

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## Michael Badnarik presents an Introduction to the Constitution

This is the same class that has been "Lighting the fires of Liberty" and earning enthusiastic support across the country. Every student receives a copy of *Good to be King*, which can be purchased separately in "fine bookstores everywhere".

This class will "rattle your cage" and challenge what you *think* you know about the Constitution and the founding of our republic. This class is typically offered from 9am until 6pm, with a one hour lunch break. It is not unusual for students to join Michael for dinner afterward to continue the discussion. To view the schedule, register for a class, or to organize a class in your area, visit

[www.ConstitutionPreservation.org](http://www.ConstitutionPreservation.org). or send an eMail to [Class@ConstitutionPreservation.org](mailto:Class@ConstitutionPreservation.org).

The cost is \$100 / person, however discounts can be negotiated for large groups. The class can also be offered in short evening segments on consecutive nights.



## THE REVIEW

# Leave mediocrity behind

■ "The Incredibles." Written and directed by Brad Bird. Released by Disney/Pixar, Nov. 5, 2004. Starring Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Samuel L. Jackson and Brad Bird. Rated PG.

Reviewed by J. Daniel Cloud  
LP NEWS EDITOR

"That, my dear, was one fun movie," I told my wife as we left the theater where we'd just seen "The Incredibles," the newest movie from the geniuses over at Pixar. And fun it was, replete with red costumes, one-liners and the triumph of good over evil.

But as I thought back over the story, the subtext began hitting me: With its frequent derision of the idea that everyone's special and the obvious response — that if everyone's special, then nobody is — and with its joyous reaffirmation that striving for mediocrity and egalitarianism is the ultimate in villainy, this movie is positively Randian in concept, if not in scope.

"Is it just me, or did others see that?" I wondered, doubting my own estimation of the film.



My interest led me to read a dozen or more other reviews of the movie, and almost without fail my fellow reviewers mentioned Ayn Rand and her thrill in excellence, her ethic of self-interest and her abhorrence of forced equality. Some, properly, exulted in the Objectivist tint on the movie; others, predictably, blasted it (and, by extension, libertarians, Rand and all other anti-collectivist thinkers) for its insistence that some people are undeniably stronger than others.

The story: The Incredibles are a family of superheroes, also known as Bob Parr (Mr. Incredible), Helen Parr (Elastigirl), and their three children,

who all have special powers. They and their superhero buddies frequently stop crimes, save lives and otherwise prove exceptional. And they all bounce along happily until lawyers and legality get involved.

In what appears to be writer/director Brad Bird's endorsement of tort reform, the crime fighters are slapped with lawsuits by some of their less-than-appreciative fellow citizens — including one would-be suicidal building-jumper who complained that Mr. Incredible injured him while saving his life. Given the newly antagonistic world in which they live, the Incredibles and their super-compatriots enter into the government's Superhero Protection Program and are forbidden to use their powers in public. The world is no longer safe for the exceptional, who begin to stagnate and sink into mediocrity.

"They keep inventing new ways to celebrate mediocrity," Mr. Incredible — or rather, Bob Parr — complains when his wife points out that he should attend a pointless ceremony at his son's school. He works as an insurance adjuster and hates the complacent boredom of his new non-incredible life. Still, at night, he goes out with a superhero friend, hoping in some small way to retain his superior nature.

Eventually, he is offered the chance to once again take on an essential role in Saving the World, an exercise that culminates in the re-activation of the Incredible family. They resume their role, recapture their thrill with life and are allowed — in some small ways — to assert themselves and their special talents once more.

The Randian connection is nowhere more apparent than in a concluding scene when Mr. Incredible balances a massive metal sphere on his back — an obvious allusion to the globe-supporting Atlas referenced in *Atlas Shrugged*.

As intriguing as the story is in its celebration of individuality, this movie occasionally slips. Bob Parr's boss is a greedy capitalist who tries to lie his way out of paying for people's insurance claims, while the uber-villain is a tremendously inventive nerd who uses his talents to kill superheroes and enforce a misguided egalitarianism. However, both enemies are defeated by our hero's efforts: Bob Parr shows people how to claim what is rightfully theirs from insurance policies; his alter ego, Mr. Incredible, defeats the villain and allows superheroes likewise to reclaim their rightful status and find joy in exercising their powers.

Minor quibbles aside, "The Incredibles" is a superb movie. It has the spectacular animation for which Pixar is justly famous, a talented writer and cast of voices, and a story line that is both light and slap-sticky enough for the kiddies and substantial enough for adults.

Don't care about the digs at enforced mediocrity and the exaltation of individualism? That's fine; there's more than enough straight-up humor to delight all but the most jaded viewers. But if you want something more from a movie, up to and including the chance actually to think about an animated feature, "The Incredibles" delivers.

## In his own words

# On the 2004 campaign trail

By Michael Badnarik  
2004 LP PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

"Never in my wildest dreams."

Those were the only words that came to mind as I gave my acceptance speech at the national convention last May. The past year will certainly be remembered as one of the most exciting and dramatic periods of my life.

Although I officially announced my campaign on President's Day 2003, my story begins on Jan. 8, 2004. That was the day Jon Airheart and I left Austin to begin our lengthy trek from state to state. Perhaps the longest and most grueling leg of the trip was from Tucson, Ariz., to Gainesville, Fla., in one week. After spending Super Bowl Sunday with a friend of mine in Phoenix, Jon and I stopped in El Paso, San Antonio, New Orleans, and Gainesville in four consecutive days of driving. We allowed ourselves to sleep until 10 a.m. Friday, but we were registered for the Florida convention by noon.

The most surprising thing about the campaign for me was the fact that it was so relentless. It has been widely reported that Jon and I drove 25,000 miles in the five months prior to the convention in Atlanta. What is often overlooked is that we also had to find a route from city to city, schedule interviews, coordinate appearances, purchase bumper stickers, pump the gas, do the laundry — and the list goes on.

Depending on each other for survival over several months allowed us to forge a friendship that will undoubtedly last the rest of our lives.

Living out of a suitcase was relatively easy for me. The part I found to be difficult (and frustrating) was attempting to raise money. On more than one occasion, Jon and I had to sell copies of my book just to have money for gas. We never would have made it if I hadn't been able to teach my class from time to time along the way. At one point my treasurer informed me that our account balance was only three dollars. Our despair was quickly forgotten when our supporters contributed \$850 over the next 24 hours. We refused to quit as long as there were people who were depending on us. I find it amazing that a campaign with so little initial funding would eventually raise over a million dollars before the election.

Finally, the weekend of the national convention arrived. To say that some of my classes had been sparsely attended would be an understatement; however, the classroom at the Marriott was filled to capacity. When the students exited into the lobby Thursday evening, you could feel electricity in the air. The excitement continued all weekend as I hugged my ardent supporters and shook hands with various

well wishers. I was too busy campaigning to even think about Saturday night's debate.

As I mounted the steps to the stage, I felt totally relaxed. Jon and I had worked very hard and could hold our heads high. As far as I could tell, the only thing I had to do was to avoid embarrassing the party or myself for 90 minutes while on national television. What could be easier? In fact, since Gary Nolan and Aaron Russo answered two-thirds of the questions before I did, it almost



felt like cheating. One of these days I'm going to watch the video of that debate. I have been told many times that it was the turning point of the weekend, though I wouldn't realize it for nearly 12 more hours.

The next morning the delegates began the voting process. The first ballot was a three-way tie, with each of us receiving 33 percent of the vote. The rest of that week is a bit of a blur, including my opening remarks. I didn't realize I had uttered those words until I read them later in a newspaper.

The good news was that suddenly the Badnarik Campaign had volunteers in every state. The "bad news" was that they were able to keep us busier than we had been able to keep ourselves. In fact, there appeared to be a conspiracy — or at least an informal contest — spreading across the nation. Each state party seemed determined to schedule us for more appearances and interviews than the last. (All kidding aside, I am deeply indebted to the hundreds of volunteers who worked so hard, for so many countless hours, in order to make this campaign the huge success that it was.)

My birth state of Indiana raised the bar by keeping me busy from 7 a.m. until 11 p.m., with 12 radio and newspaper interviews and a huge fundraiser just blocks from my parents' home.

Not to be outdone, North Carolina kept me busy on July 2-4, highlighted by a little "shuttle diplomacy" to and from Washington, D.C., numerous radio interviews, and a charter flight from Raleigh to Wilmington in a very small plane.

The state that gave us the most pleasant surprise was Arizona. As Jon and I walked toward the baggage claim very late at night after a very long day of travel, the last thing we expected to find was a huge crowd of supporters with signs and a banner, cheering for us.

It was heartfelt experiences like these gave us the determination to continue day after day.

However, the unofficial trophy for working us to exhaustion goes to the notorious Jim Lark and his state of Virginia. Organized with the precision and redundancy of a NASA shuttle launch, I began to get a sense of what it would feel like to actually BE the president. For four days we were transported from place to place in a caravan of black Suburbans, with an entourage of people in suits and ties. I kept looking around to see if anyone was talking into their sleeve — but it either never happened or they were very, very discreet.

As Jim and I stood behind the curtain of a college auditorium, waiting to be introduced. Jim whispered, "Virginia Tech is my alma mater. I want you to do a good job tonight."

I quipped, "As opposed to the mediocre job I've done all week?"

On stage in front of an audience of 250, I spoke and answered questions for nearly an hour, after which enthusiastic students stood in line for an additional hour for an opportunity to shake hands and speak with me before they left. Based on their comments I think it's safe to say we were doing a good job of "lighting the fires of liberty" that evening.

And then, even more quickly than it started, the election took place, and the campaign was over. I coasted on adrenaline for two more days before I crashed and slept for 12 hours straight.

It feels odd having to schedule my own time again, but I'm hoping to keep myself busy teaching my class and doing as many speaking engagements as I can. Texas will have my name somewhere on the ballot in 2006, and if that campaign isn't a success, I plan to throw my hat into the presidential race again in 2008.

The Libertarian Party will start winning significant elections very soon — and I'm feeling extremely lucky these days.

I did learn two important lessons from this campaign. First, never, ever give up! Second, we are significantly more successful when we work together as a team. I hope that I have helped inspire the party to even greater success in the future.

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you as your presidential nominee. I worked hard to make you proud of me; I hope you are happy with the results.



# Massive monument takes shape without government funds

By Tony Ryan

In the Black Hills of South Dakota between Custer and Mount Rushmore is a tremendous monument to history, tenacity, self-sufficiency and libertarian ideals — an in-progress sculpture that is lauded as the largest sculpture in the world.

The Crazy Horse Memorial is being carved from this mountain. In both size and audacity, it dwarfs the better-known Mount Rushmore, which is located just 17 miles to the northeast.

On June 3, 1998 — the 50th anniversary of the monument — Crazy Horse was celebrated with a good deal of fanfare. Over 7,000 people attended the event, the highlight of which was the unveiling of Crazy Horse's face. The head alone is larger than all four faces on Mount Rushmore, and the massive sculpture will eventually show Crazy Horse, on horseback with his arm extended.

The undertaking has been in progress for some 56 years, and the memorial foundation is dedicated to continuing the sculpting process.

This monumental undertaking is private — the only money involved in its development comes from admission fees (only \$9 per adult or \$20 per carload) and private donations. Twice, the government has offered \$10 million grants for the project, and twice the government's money (your tax dollars) has been turned down!

The project was launched in 1948 by sculptor Korczak Ziolkowski at the request of Native Americans.

Ziolkowski, the son of Polish immigrants, was born in Boston in 1908 and had a very harsh childhood. Learning sculpting skills as he grew up, he created the Carrara marble portrait "Paderewski, Study of an Immortal," which won first prize at the 1939 New York World's Fair. That same year, he was hired as assistant to sculptor Gutzon Borglum, creator of the presidential face carvings on Mt. Rushmore.

After serving in World War II, Ziolkowski was asked by Native American leaders — including Chief Henry Standing Bear — to create a monument to Chief Crazy Horse in the Black Hills. Standing Bear said in his invitation, "My fellow chiefs and I would like the white man to know the red man has great heroes, too."

For the next 36 years, the sculpture became Ziolkowski's life's work. He, his wife, and eventually all 10 of their children (all born and raised around the memorial) continued work on the monument.

Ziolkowski refused to accept any salary for his work, which he continued until his death in 1982. Ruth Ziolkowski and seven of her children continue the project today.

Visitors to the site can see not only the amazing mountain carving (the head and most of Crazy Horse's extended arm are complete) but also the Indian Museum, which includes the Native American Educational and Cultural Center. You can even



■ The monument to Crazy Horse slowly takes shape in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

take home a piece of the mountain from the carving.

Don't try that at Mount Rushmore, the nearby government-operated monument!

When I visited Mount Rushmore with my wife and friends last year, we observed a little girl (approximately 8 or 9 years old) in tears outside the artist's studio. She was surrounded by park personnel — including a ranger — and her parents. She was being lectured about trying to take something out of the park (in this case, a pine cone).

This would not happen at Crazy Horse!

At Crazy Horse, for a donation

of as little as \$174 (the amount Ziolkowski had in his pocket when he started the project in 1948) you can get a van ride for four to the base of the mountain. And if you donate \$250 or more, the staff will arrange to take you right up to the monument to watch the blasting.

And you can pick up chunks of rock to take home with you. Several million tons of granite have been blasted off the mountain as the sculpture emerges.

When completed, the Crazy Horse Memorial will be 563 feet tall and 641 feet long. The man's face alone is nine stories tall, while the horse's head — currently taking

shape — will be 22 stories tall.

Obviously, this is a huge project. It's been underway for well over 50 years, and it's going to take many more years to complete. But the sculptors and others connected with the Crazy Horse Foundation are dedicated to completing their project without federal or state government assistance.

For more information, go to [www.crazyhorse.org](http://www.crazyhorse.org).

■ **About the author:** Tony Ryan, a retired police officer who lives in Sioux Falls, S.D., is an alternate regional representative to the Libertarian National Committee.

## Corr runs for city council

David Corr, chairman of the Libertarian Party of Bibb County, Ga., is one of three candidates for a city council seat in Macon, the city where he was born and where he has lived most of his 50 years.

An election will be held March 15 to replace councilman Jim Lee, who died in September at age 81. The council seat has been vacant since his death.

Corr's two opponents for the position are Al Tillman and Darryl Morris, who finished second in the 2003 race for the same seat.

Corr is not a new name in Macon politics: Last November, he ran for mayor of the city, receiving 25 percent of the vote following a six-week write-in campaign opposing the Democrat incumbent — a record percentage for a write-in candidate there. And earlier this year, a proposed sales tax in the county was narrowly voted down following persistent Libertarian opposition.

The tax would have cost taxpayers an estimated \$140 million to \$160 million over five years. In the March 2 referendum, 51.56 percent of voters opposed the tax increase.

Corr was interviewed on television, on talk radio and in frequent

newspaper articles in the months leading up to the referendum, and his Libertarian Web site — [www.davidcorr.org](http://www.davidcorr.org) — was often referred to as the official site opposing the tax.

When Lee died, he had more than three years left on his term in office, and the three qualified candidates are running to serve out that term.

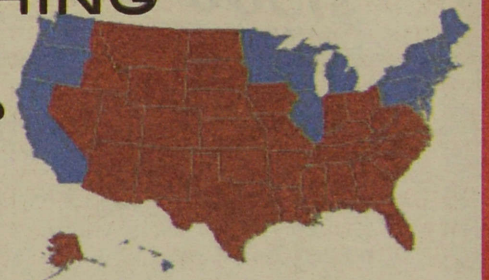
Only residents of Macon's Ward 2 will be able to vote in the election. A county election official said there are fewer than 8,100 registered voters in that ward. The council has 15 members, with three members representing each of the city's five wards.

True to his libertarian beliefs, Corr promises (on his Web site) to oppose all tax increases, to work to lower property taxes and reduce spending on "non-essential government," to "repeal those laws which violate the rights of our peaceful citizens" and to help restore open and ethical government in the city.

To win the office, one of the three candidates will have to receive more than 50 percent of the vote. If that doesn't happen, a run-off election between the top two vote-getters will be held on April 5.

## TIRED OF WATCHING THE MAP GO RED AND BLUE?

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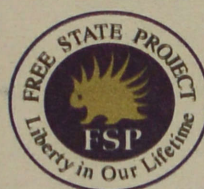
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LEE T. ZEHRER  
ALIYAH ZIONDRA

The Management Team of the Badnarik/Campagna 2004 Presidential Campaign wishes to take this opportunity to give thanks and recognition to some of the thousands of people who contributed directly to the achievements of the campaign. We are sure that many have been left off this list, so please accept our apologies for errors or omissions.

**Campaign Support and Services:** Celeste Adams, Cheryl Bates (scheduled most of Michael's personal appearances), Greg Dirasian, Upton Ethelbah, James Hines, Jeremy Linden, Rolf Lindgren, Melissa Koenke, Richard Obergfell, Rich Prilliman, James Robbins, Leonard Schwartz and Eva Warzecha.

**Communications (including media and web):** Seth Cohn, Gary Duvall, Jeff Frazee (scheduled hundreds of local radio interviews), Anthony Gregory, Scott Horton, James Jones, Yvonne Kelly, Thomas Knapp (for putting many words in Michael's 'mouth' via questionnaires, etc.), David Rostcheck, Stephen Van Dyke and Kathryn Weitzel.

**Campaign Headquarters (Austin) staff:** Steve Adams, Jessica Caplan, Arthur DiBianca, Rebekah Duke, Rock Howard and Marina Neale.

**Campaign Headquarters volunteers:** Wes Benedict, Michael Burris, Jim Cartwright, Patrick Dixon, David Fried, Rob Fritsche, Beverly Howard, Rick McGinnis, Bob Ruliffson, Jon Roland, 'Beeker', and many more who came in to help out when we needed them.

**National LP Headquarters:** Michael Dixon, George Getz, Sam New, Joe Seehusen and Jessica Wilson.

**Ballot Access:** George Phillis (for much-appreciated buttressing of fundraising), Bill Redpath (for making it all come together), Roland Riemers (for setting a great example in North Dakota), Richard Winger (for being not only *the greatest ballot access expert*, but *our* guy too), the Ohio LP (for succeeding at ballot access – twice! – and on their own), the Texas LP (for nearly doubling the requirements set by the LNC for national assistance), and every person who "pounded the pavement" gathering signatures.

For organizing multiple campaign swings through much of the west – Allen Hacker.

For putting events together – *All* the state and local coordinators.

For most ably filling in for Michael Badnarik at a debate – Gary Nolan.

For raising the most money at a Richard Campagna event – Steve Dasbach.

For spearheading the debates – Don Meinshausen.

For producing our "kitchen table" ad, and procuring most of our airtime – Tim O'Brien.

For *not only* putting up with her husband's constant absence, but even helping on the campaign – Debbie Gordon.

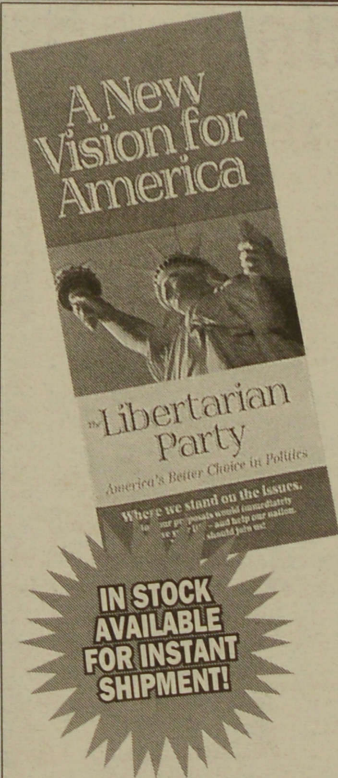
For helping in so many ways, from accounts payable, to ballot certifications, to making daily runs with the bank deposits, to some artwork and literature development and fundraising letter editing, to mail 'triage' to taking care of many little (and big) things – Nancy Neale.

And last, but most certainly not least, for spending every minute of every day, ahead of, behind, and at the side of Michael Badnarik, making sure he was where he was supposed to be – Jon Airheart.

**THANK YOU!**

Fred Collins, *Campaign Manager*  
Barbara Goushaw-Collins, *Associate Campaign Mgr.*  
Geoffrey Neale, *Operations Manager*  
Stephen Gordon, *Communications Director*





# ★★★★ They're back! ★★★★★

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

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

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

This pocket-sized (8.5" by 4") booklet fits easily in a pocket or purse, and is perfect for handing out at state fairs, politically homeless booths and other outreach events. Order your "New Vision for America" brochures today! Smaller orders are priced at **\$25 per 100**. (LP pays shipping.)

## LP Literature & Books

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

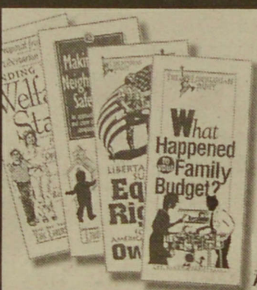
■ **Libertarianism In One Lesson** by David Bergland. Expanded 8th edition. The classic introductory work. Outlines Libertarian positions on all major political issues and contrasts them to liberals and conservatives. A must-read. Softbound, 158 pages. **Cost:** \$10 each; or 5 for \$35.

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

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

■ **Million Dollar Bills:** Green Ink. A faux \$1,000,000 bill that highlights excessive federal spending — and points out that the federal government spends more than \$1 million every five seconds. Perfect for Tax Day, taxpayer groups, and almost any other outreach project! **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$5 for 100

## 2-COLOR ★ LIBERTARIAN PARTY BROCHURES ★ 4-COLOR

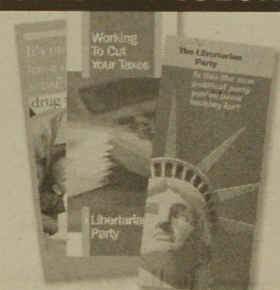


### 2-COLOR

- Making Your Neighborhood Safe Again
- Ending the Welfare State
- What Happened To Your Family Budget?
- Equal Rights for America's Gun Owners

### 4-COLOR

- Is This the New Political Party You've Been Looking For?
- Working to Cut Your Taxes
- It's Time for a More Sensible Drug Policy



2-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$7 for 100 / 4-color brochures: Sample: 50¢ ★ Or \$10 for 100

■ **LP "Fact Sheets":** Updated for 2003: 2-page LP history (with political highlights, accomplishments, and victories from 1971-2003) and a comprehensive two-page bibliography (featuring more than 150 books about liberty!). Sold as a set. **Cost:** Sample: 50¢ or \$10 for 100

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

### Bumper Stickers

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

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

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

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

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

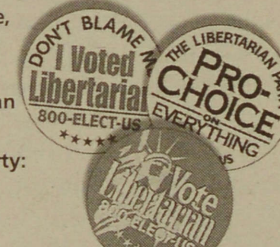
### Buttons

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

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

■ **Vote Libertarian** 1-800-ELECT-US

■ **Libertarian Party: Pro-Choice on Everything** 1-800-ELECT-US



## Tools for Campaigning

■ **Libertarian Political Action: Techniques for Effective Campaigning:** 32 pages. Comprehensive explanation of winning campaign techniques for Libertarian candidates. Includes everything from creating a campaign timeline, deciding on issues, raising money, working with volunteers, dealing with the media, and organizing a Get Out The Vote (GOTV) effort. A must read for every Libertarian candidate — state, local, or federal! **Cost:** \$3.00 each

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

■ **LP Statue of Liberty Logo on PC Disk:** 3.5" DOS-compatible computer disk. **Cost:** \$3 each

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

## Banners

■ **Large Banner.** (18" x 5'). White lettering on bold blue background. The first line says: "Libertarian Party." The second line says: "800-ELECT-US." Perfect for local Libertarian Party meetings, state or county conventions, Operation Politically Homeless (OPH) booths, etc. **Cost:** \$40 each

# ORDER FORM

There is no charge for standard shipping. Allow up to 2-3 weeks for delivery. Or: Add \$5 for same-day shipping. Call (202) 333-0008 Ext. 221 for instructions on rush deliveries. Minimum order: \$5.00. Orders shipped via UPS; please add \$5 for Post Office box deliveries. Make checks payable to: Libertarian Party.

### Ready-to-use Literature

Q'NTY COST

- BOOKLET (4-c): "A New Vision for America"
- Brochure (4-c): "Is This/New Political Party...?"
- Brochure (4-c): "More Sensible Drug Policy"
- Brochure (4-c): "Working to Cut Your Taxes!"
- Brochure: "What Happened/ Family Budget?"
- Brochure: "Ending the Welfare State"
- Brochure: "Making Neighborhood Safe Again"
- Brochure: "Equal Rights/America's Gun Owners"
- Flyer: "Political Party/100% Pro-Gun Rights?"
- America's Libertarian Heritage booklet
- Fact Sheets: LP history/bibliography (package)
- World's Smallest Political Quiz
- "Million Dollar Bill" Literature

### Bumper Stickers

- Don't Blame Me...I Voted Libertarian
- I'm Pro-Choice on Everything!
- ENOUGH IS ENOUGH/VOTE LIBERTARIAN
- Vote Libertarian/1-800-ELECT-US

### Banners

"LIBERTARIAN PARTY" (18" h x 5' w)  
Second line says: "1-800-ELECT-US"

### Tools for Campaigning

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

### Books for Sale

- Why Government Doesn't Work  
By Harry Browne
- Libertarianism In One Lesson  
By David Bergland

### Buttons

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

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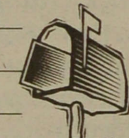
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Washington, DC 20037



# Social Security: Don't privatize the plundering

## 'Can any champion of free markets justify continuing this theft?'

By Anthony Gregory

George W. Bush wants to "reform" and "fix" Social Security, and "privatize" aspects of it. Certain "free market" groups seem to like this idea, though they admit that such reform will be costly, entailing transition costs estimated at between \$7 trillion and \$8 trillion total before the transition is completed in mid-century.

How benevolent of the president to begin reforms that will only take 50 more years to complete! If something goes wrong by the time I retire, I wonder how many of today's Republican lawmakers will still be around to hold accountable.

Social Security is among the most tyrannical government programs under which the average wage earner must suffer. And I don't know who is more pitiable, the average employee who pays about 14 percent — half of which is hidden because his employer must fork it over, and therefore deduct it from what the employee could otherwise earn — or the self-employed worker, who has to cut the check for that much himself.

Fourteen percent. And we all know it won't be there upon retirement, maybe not even for my parents' generation, and almost certainly not for mine.

Fourteen percent. That's three-fourths of every typical worker's Monday, spent working for a fraudulent system. This is time that parents could spend with their children, teaching them good values and academics or playing ball with them, or time that could be spent working to build up wealth to save or invest in a way that actually produces good for the economy, rather than be thrown down the drain of the largest government agency in the world.

For the American struggling just to make ends meet, who buys groceries only when they are on sale and goes to Wal-Mart for its heroically inexpensive quality goods, it is maddening to have to surrender 14 percent of every dollar earned, just to prop up one of FDR's many enduring legacies.

Social Security is "regressive," in that the poor pay proportionately more, or, at least, more than the super rich, whose payroll taxes are capped at a certain amount. I don't like "progressive" taxes, but I might even hate "regressive" ones more. Maybe I'm a bleeding-heart libertarian?

Why is Social Security in such dire straits?

Fifty years ago, the ratio of workers to retirees (those drawing Social Security) was 16 to 1, a ratio that has dropped steadily over the years. Today, only 3.3 workers pay into the system for every person draw-

ing benefits. By the time today's new workers are ready to retire, the ratio will have shrunk even further, to about 2 to 1.

For all the talk about how my generation [those under 30] is uncouth, impatient and unappreciative, it's the older generations that must answer for allowing this harrowing institution — one of the most immoral in America — to continue and grow. My generation didn't condemn millions to involuntary servitude in this fashion! I apologize if my fellow young Americans are rude at times (or if I am), but it's quite stressful having 14 percent of our money stolen just so the government can maintain this corrupt program of intergenerational plunder.

Do I blame my elders? No. Do I wish them ill and suffering? Of course not. I am not a sadist. They, too, would be better off without the socialist retirement system.

But they're the ones lobbying to keep it afloat! If economic collapse comes, we all must face the reality that Social Security might fall with it. And good riddance. The sooner the better, as far as I'm concerned.

The vital flaws in Social Security

**FOR THE AMERICAN**  
**struggling just**  
**to make ends meet...**  
**it is maddening**  
**to have to surrender**  
**14 percent**  
**of every dollar**  
**earned.**

could be a great issue for libertarians to focus on; nothing better demonstrates the pure evil of the welfare state, as it attacks the poorest and youngest Americans and distributes money to the wealthiest demographic in the country. Instead of pointing this out, too many "free market" thinkers devise ways to keep the system afloat.

Ask many people my age and they'll tell you they understand the system stinks. Bring it up to older generations, and they seem to want to keep the rotten racket going, at least until they're done "benefiting" from it. When I talk to my elders about politics, my stand on Social Security often upsets them more than anything else I have to say.

What's the solution? Scrap the whole system! Let's not "privatize" plunder, the way so many free market socialists want to. I don't want an opportunity to give 14 percent, or some fraction of it, to whatever corporations the Bush administration thinks can be trusted with my

## Libertarian SOLUTIONS

money better than the government can.

Instead of the privatization schemes we usually hear about, I think the best "gradualist" reform would be to reduce the payroll taxes, by whatever amount we can. Just cut them down, and keep cutting until there's nothing left to cut.

The older people perhaps deserve something for all they've put into the system, and may indeed have a claim on government assets.

The only trouble with this is that if you took all the victims of the U.S. government — people unjustly imprisoned, people who have had their homes and businesses confiscated through the totalitarian asset forfeiture laws, people who have been regulated into poverty, people killed accidentally by federal cops, not to mention those who have lost property and loved ones to U.S.-led wars of aggression — I would expect the liabilities would far exceed the assets.

Even counting only those Americans who have had to pay taxes all their lives, the government couldn't currently repay them all that has been stolen. The entire U.S. economy couldn't handle it. Maybe Americans who have paid all their lives into the corrupt Social Security system should get close to first dibs on government property to be liquidated, but there's a long line of victims of the U.S. government, and there's no totally fair way to compensate them for even a fraction of what they deserve.

What's most important is to stop the stealing. Isn't it? Can any champion of liberty or free markets really justify continuing this mass theft of working people's meager wealth?

The first Social Security victims didn't even have to pay 14 percent, and if the miserable pyramid scam continues my generation will be paying 20 or 30 percent before we know it.

I was listening to Rush Limbaugh one day when Bush's tax cut was in the news. I always find it quite annoying when liberals whine about the "top 1 percent" of all Americans getting the biggest income tax cuts. Why shouldn't they, when they pay the most in income taxes?

This time, the caller actually had a good question, one worth serious consideration. He asked why the

administration cut income taxes instead of payroll taxes. He wasn't complaining about the rich getting tax cuts, as much as he was arguing that the poor should get tax cuts. This is a reasonable matter to discuss, isn't it? Libertarians and fiscal conservatives should give it serious thought, shouldn't they?

Limbaugh mumbled something about why payroll taxes couldn't be reasonably cut and how people shouldn't demonize the rich, blah, blah, blah.

I'm starting to see why some people think Republicans care more about cutting taxes for the rich than

soon. If I could push that magical button that Murray Rothbard used to talk about, and get rid of the system immediately, you couldn't keep my finger from it without a fight.

Do you think the Republicans would push that button? Would the "free-market" conservative organizations? Would even most Libertarians do it?

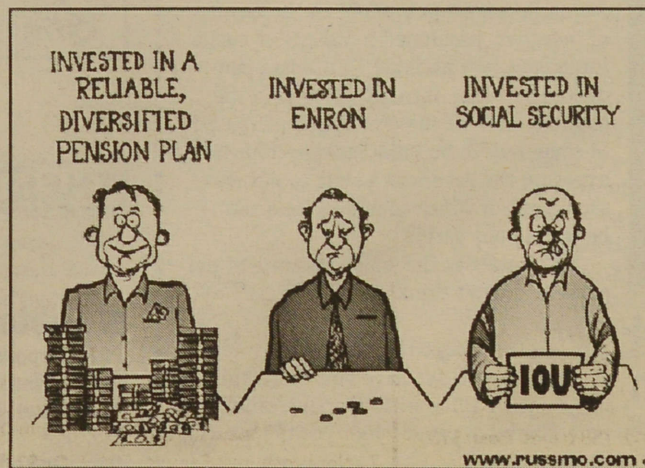
I say the Ponzi scheme should go, as soon as possible. It's racked up enough unfunded liabilities for 100 governments, and it's at the top of the list of America's worst welfare state programs.

End Socialist Security!

Am I selfish? Perhaps. But only because I think we should cut taxes for the rich and for everybody else, maybe even starting with the tax that attacks the wage earner who has to work almost all of Monday just so FDR's vile progeny can feel like they're being compassionate.

■ **About the author:** Anthony Gregory is a writer and musician living in Berkeley.


He was president of the Cal Libertarians at UC Berkeley, where he earned his bachelors degree in U.S. history. He is a research assistant at The Independent Institute, a policy advisor for the Future of Freedom Foundation, and a contributor to *Strike the Root*, *LewRockwell.com* and other publications. See his Web site [www.anthonygregory.com](http://www.anthonygregory.com). This column first appeared on *LewRockwell.com*.



for the rest of us. Maybe they do.

Some Republicans even think the poor are "under-taxed." Maybe these are the same folks who think that Iraq has been under-bombed. How could anyone be under-taxed? If they are under-taxed, let us not blame the great individualist Ronald Reagan, who raised the payroll tax. Without him, the poor would be extremely under-taxed.

Social Security has to go, and



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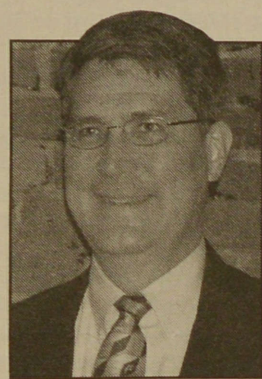
# Accepting exceptions

The New Year is a time to reflect on the past and look to the future with optimism, and in that spirit I would like to share a few thoughts.

### The presidential campaign

The last time I appeared in this space, I discussed the need to employ several different tactics as we try make personal connections with prospective supporters (Go. Communicate. Teach. Remember.) A few of you sent word that my thoughts were not just bad, they were wrong. My mother, being a mom, merely said I had been "obtuse." I promise to communicate a bit more clearly in the future.

Another comment I heard was that the presidential vote total is the single measure of our success as a party — that it will be used for the next four years to celebrate, or pillory, those responsible for the campaign.



**By Michael Dixon**

NATIONAL CHAIRMAN

I must politely disagree. The campaign's success is measured in many ways, and vote totals don't even make the list. The Badnarik campaign brought in thousands of inquiries, performed hundreds of media interviews, ran national TV ads and conducted personal outreach all around the country. Each of these efforts contributed in some way to building membership and exposing the American public to our message, both of which provide a long-term benefit to our party.

Vote totals as the single measure of our success? I don't think so.

### Accept the 'except'

How many times have you heard this comment: "I agree with you Libertarians on everything, except your position on (fill in the blank)?"

I used to think of this as an opportunity to learn more about that exception, and to teach about our position. But I've come to believe that this is not a time for conversion, or for resignation: It is a time for acceptance.

Libertarians don't value group-think; we value individuality and self-expression. So why insist that others agree with us on every single issue? If some in our culture (or even in our party) want to disagree with us on something, we should follow our own principle and accept them. I have seen too many people shunned in the party because they agree with us on everything "except" for one or two issues.

It appears our older — and larger — competitors accept the exceptions within their ranks. Consider the burgeoning number of pro-life Democrats, or the Log Cabin Republicans. Call it philosophical inconsistency or having a "big tent" party; I call it old-fashioned prudence and courtesy. I also call it a way to grow our party.

I think the change has to start within each of us individually, and as a party. The next time you hear an exception, I hope you will be able to accept both the exception and the person who said it. Invite them in and encourage them to join our mission.

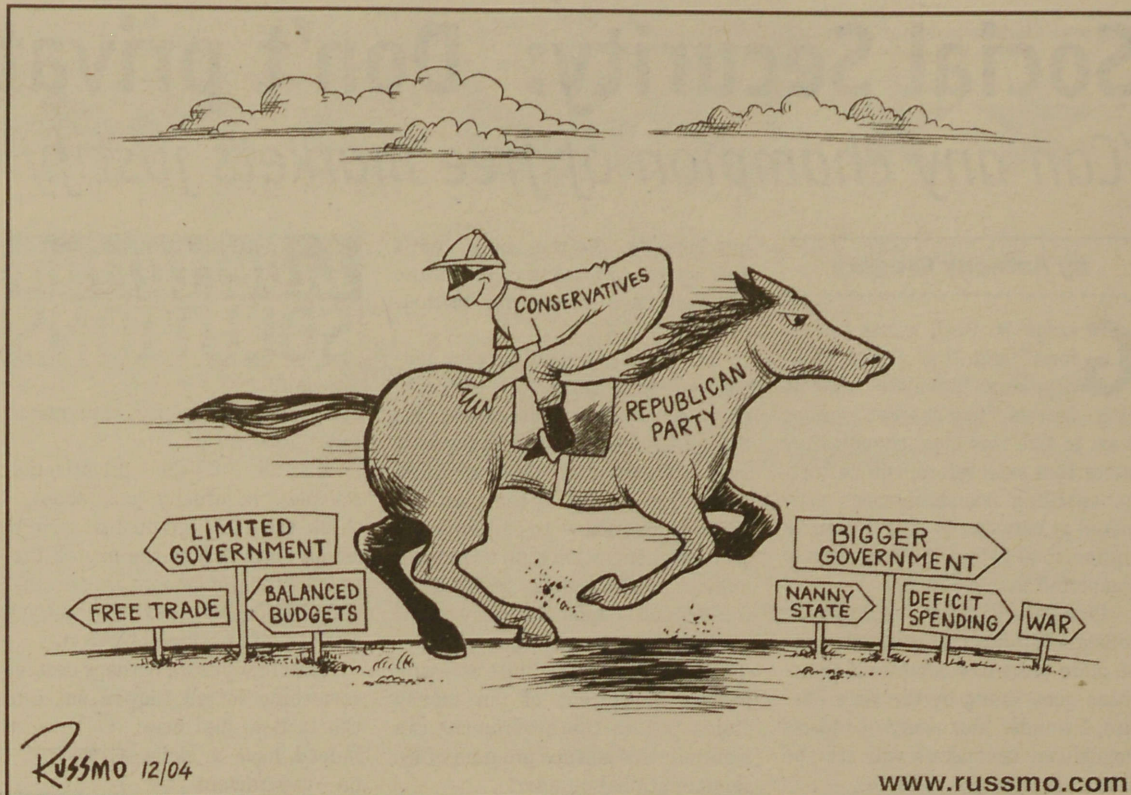
### Thank you

A funny thing happened a few weeks ago during the Libertarian National Committee meeting in Washington, D.C. On Saturday evening we scheduled a meeting without a topic or a speaker, but with a purpose. The purpose was to say thank you. The guests were the party's most generous lifetime donors in the DC/Virginia/Maryland area. The invitation was to a dinner with the LP headquarters staff and National Committee representatives.

LNC members paid their own way, because we all know there's no free lunch, or dinner. It was a wonderful evening, with an opportunity for donors, the committee and the staff to break bread, consume an adult beverage and tell stories.

But that was not the end of the story. When I arrived home in North Carolina a few days later, I found an unexpected piece of mail from the national office. I get a fair amount of mail from the headquarters, but this was different. The envelope was small, and hand-addressed. It was a thank-you card from our membership and development department. And it brought me up short, because it's the first time I've ever received a thank-you note from the party.

None of us is involved in this mission for the thank you. We don't add that into the calculus when we are asked to take on a new project or responsibility. But you know what? It brightened my day, and made me glad to be a Libertarian.



## THE MAILBOX

### Subterfuge

In response to Jamie Weissman's letter printed in the November *LP News*, I say welcome to the LP, Jamie. But if you really believe the ends justify the means, I would like to point out that such behavior is not what "the party of principle" is about.

The suggestion that Libertarian candidates infiltrate the Republicans and Democrats by misrepresenting what we believe and then governing as we want once elected is the kind of trickery I would expect from the morally bankrupt duopoly we fight, not from a fellow LP member concerned with sound government.

Only by being honest and forthright with our convictions and policies can the LP hope to gain a base of firm support to win elections, both at the local and national level — and then get re-elected for second terms to achieve a sustainable change in American politics. How can we build a "brand" for liberty in our nation if we allow LP candidates to go against that brand in campaigns?

Either we have a consistent philosophy for achieving a better country to live in or we do not.

—TIMOTHY KEIRNAN  
Chelsea, Michigan

### Withdrawal

It's a good thing Saddam Hussein was not killed. The U.S. may need him to restore order among the 250 religious, tribal and political factions vying for power in colonial Iraq, so Americans can "withdraw with honor" as Nixon would say (if withdrawal was ever the intention of the Bush Administration).

—BILL HOLMES  
Lancaster, California

### Global warming

I'd like to address Dan Karlan's inquiry about global warming. [MailBox, December 2004 *LP News*]

Both war and global warming are about transferring wealth. Understanding one will help in understanding the other.

James Madison, "the father of our Constitution," had a lot to say about war and how it increases the power and scope of government and

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—TIMOTHY KEIRNAN

destroys individual freedom. At the end of one speech he said, "No nation could preserve its freedom in the midst of continual warfare."

Joseph Sobran once said, "War is just one more government program."

He nailed it! War has been the most efficient vehicle for government to do what it does best, transfer wealth. Transferring wealth is the real purpose of war.

When Americans get tired of war their new program will take the place of war in the transference of wealth. That program is environmentalism.

When the war cools down environmentalism will heat up.

One of the major tenets of environmentalism is the junk science of global warming. It took root over

one hundred years ago when a man by the name of Arrhenius published an article in the *Philosophical Magazine* presenting calculations that with the doubling of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere the planetary temperature would rise six degrees Celsius.

With the advent of the first Earth Day in 1970, [the theory of] global warming was off and running. This gave global warming its push. Let's examine its flaws.

The earth has been warming and cooling since the big bang and there is nothing we can do about it because its primary cause is solar flares. The only near accurate way to measure the earth's temperature is from satellites, and they tell us that from 1979 the earth has cooled by 0.13 degrees Celsius.

If you check the scientists who believe in the global warming myth they are always using land based computer models and those models are incapable of factoring in sea ice, snow caps, localized storms, biological systems, and clouds. There is a lot more information you can get in Richard Bailey's book, *The True State of the Planet*.

—JIM BOEHM  
Toledo, Ohio

### Armageddon

I used to think I was too liberal for the Libertarian Party, but since George W. Bush has been in office, I feel I may be too conservative. I just don't share the Libertarian Party's sense of Armageddon with the Bush administration.

During Clinton's eight years, the Libertarian Party was hostile to any kind of "warm fuzzy" that came out of the White House. Now, the party sounds eerily similar to socialists who condemn Bush — and America



## THE MAILBOX

— for every perceived worldwide or national woe.

The Libertarian Party acts as a pendulum, swinging from one extreme to the next in order to counter balance whoever is in power. This may work on a personal level, but if the party ever hopes to gain more national attention and respect, it will have to become more concrete in its convictions.

If the party confuses those who are in it, then how can it clearly present its goal to those outside of it?

—VIKRAM D'SOUZA  
Omaha, Nebraska

## No to nationalism

In response to the Jay Stephens column in the November issue of *LP News*: No, Jay, a true Libertarian cannot simultaneously be nationalistic. Let me explain.

A dictionary definition of nationalism is as follows: loyalty and devotion to a nation, especially a sense of national consciousness exalting one nation above all others and placing primary emphasis on promotion of its culture and interests as opposed to those of other nations or supranational groups.

As a Libertarian, the definition turns me off for two reasons. First, it has the stench of "holier than thou" thinking. Second, if adhered to, one would end up being narrow or closed-minded.

How, as an example, could our nation, honestly and in good faith, enter into a trade agreement or a treaty if our representatives go into such meetings with the belief that they are the only ones who know what is right, and fail to take into consideration another nation's concerns?

I am one of the "we the people" referred to in our Constitution, and as such, I have a duty to make sure that my representatives do their job honestly and within the guidelines specified in the Constitution.

As a citizen or a representative, a Libertarian will always be concerned that all of the people receive equal treatment and protection under the Constitution.

With all that is presently wrong in and with our country, I would have to be a raving loony to feel good about it or boast about it. We are at war based upon false accusations, half-truths and the complete disregard of known intelligence data. The Bill of Rights is being dismantled, and the Constitution itself is in jeopardy. Our officials talk about free trade, but use embargoes, tariffs and any other means possible to keep the smaller countries down.

How, I wonder, can any country trust us when we use half-truths, lies and exaggeration to go to war?

Libertarians cannot afford to be nationalists until the scalawags and scoundrels have been rooted out of our system, and the government once again operates under the Constitution — and truly considers all of the people instead of just some

of the people.

Based on my knowledge of human nature, this will occur about the same time that pigs fly.

—AUGUSTUS D. SUITER  
San Bernardino, California

## Ohio recount

It is good and exciting to see the Greens and Libertarians working together on the recount. Perhaps by pulling on the thread of a hanging chad, the whole rotten suit will collapse.

I have this idea to help us get rid of the stupid "wasted vote/spoiler" argument that people throw at us. For example in New York City there is an initiative and referendum law that we might use to implement IRV.

We could get WBAI, the Voice, the Press and the Nation, Breslin and others to come out for it and it would be a good vehicle for next year's mayoral candidates.

I am sending this to my Libertarian and Green friends who have shown admirable courage and good cooperation in this last election. We are raising the level of debate from Republican vs. Democrat to a Libertarian/Green dialog and having fun and spreading awareness in the process.

—DONALD MEINSHAUSEN  
Hoboken, New Jersey

## No to nationalism II

[Re: November 2004 *LP News* Forum article, "Can Libertarians also be nationalists?"]

Stephens states, "The American people want to know what a candidate will do for their country, state or city — not just for individuals."

This reminds me of John F. Kennedy's statement, "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country."

Countries, states and cities aren't living creatures. They are groups of individuals. Once we start thinking in terms of what can be done for our country instead of what can be done for the country's people, we soon end up sacrificing individual rights and individual people for the sake of the country.

Stephens says, "Nationalism does not require racism, socialism or totalitarian fascism."

He says it does require "acknowledgement of the country's pre-eminence among nations."

Since a country consists of its people, that's the same as saying that one's country's people are pre-eminent over the people of all other countries — which is the beginning of the road to belief in a master race, which belief system led to World War II.

Nationalism considers the country to be more important than the individual citizens of the country.

Nationalism is the opposite of individualism. And the Libertarian Party is supposed to be pro-individualism. Therefore, in my opinion, the answer to the question — "Can

Libertarians also be nationalists?" — is definitely "No."

—SAMUEL A. SHAFFE  
Winter Haven, Florida

## What's our stance?

Most people I know or meet have never heard of the Libertarian Party. For those few who have heard of it, they either think it's a communist group or an anarchist group.

The perceptions of the LP from the general population reflect the chaos within the party itself. The average American has no idea what the LP is or what it stands for because those inside of it have no idea either.

Is the LP pro-American or pro-EU? Should we ban smoking but keep abortion legal? Should we legalize marijuana but close down the cigarette manufacturers? Should we promote individual liberty but clamp down on religious expression?

In any case, if the LP hopes to establish itself as a viable third party.

—MARIA SANCHEZ  
Chicago, Illinois

## Light rail

In the November 2004 *MailBox*, a Minnesota resident remarks that Jesse Ventura was "the driving force behind the light rail line that currently defaces south Minneapolis."

The last time I was up there, I was held up by a disabled vehicle on the interstate highway that defaces south Minneapolis.

I-25 defaces Raton Canyon, on the Colorado-New Mexico border, whereas the BNSF railroad tracks harmonize with nature. Near Branson, Mo., hills were cut down for a highway, while the old MoPac rail line wiggled inconspicuously through the Ozarks.

Judging from the swipes at passenger rail service in the *LP News*, Libertarians are wedded to their cars.

But as Stephen B. Goddard explains in *Getting There*, it's a shotgun wedding. In terms of user fees/total cost, motoring and aviation are no easier on taxpayers than passenger rail.

—BOB DOSTAL  
Iowa City, Iowa

## Voting against

As should be abundantly clear by now, given the rotten candidates put up by the Ds and Rs, the vast majority of people during a Presidential campaign do not vote for candidates, but against candidates.

Thus, those who could not stomach Bush voted for the person who had the best chance to beat Bush, i.e., Kerry. Those who could not stomach Kerry voted for the person with the best chance to beat Kerry, i.e., Bush.

Where does that (together with the tax-subsidized infomercials called "conventions," and rigged, so-called "debates") leave a Libertarian presidential candidate?

OUT!  
—HERB JOHNSON  
Tucson, Arizona

## Gay marriage

I believe the current gay marriage issue is something that could be used as sort of a rallying point for the Libertarian Party. It's a hot-button topic, involves freedom to the core, and is one thing that could attract a lot of new members to our cause.

When you consider the stances that major political parties offer to this issue, it's easy to see how a Libertarian solution to the problem would be appealing. George W. Bush and the Republicans want nothing less than a Constitutional amendment preventing unions between homosexual couples.

Are we really prepared to write such a severe form of discrimination into what was once one of the most sacred of U.S. documents? The Democratic ideal really isn't much better. Although they trumpet freedom, they're not ready to seriously take any action to solve the problem.

The Libertarian solution may well be the only solution left.

The opposing side talks of the debauchery that destroyed the Roman Empire.

But the truth is that society is actually better off for homosexual unions. They're now able to be fully contributing members of society who are often politically affluent and helpful to our economy. It's a "win-win" situation for all.

The slide has already begun. A majority of Ohioans passed Issue 1 in 2004, which writes into Ohio's constitution that marriage may only be between a man and a woman. Thus, Ohio has cemented its descent into economic obscurity.

Perhaps once the statistics are available (and many already are), they will help to show the negative effects of this legislation.

Perhaps the opposition knows they can't win with the facts, so they resort to dogma and double-speak. Maybe they're only scared and need a gentle push in the right direction.

—GEORGE BUTTNER  
Dayton, Ohio

## Intelligence

It is becoming increasingly clear to me that the massive changes at the CIA occurring since the 2004 election are leading the CIA away from their few legitimate intelligence-gathering activities and toward a larger political Big Brother role.

The newest CIA leaders are nothing more than Republican staffers with political agendas who want to consolidate power while perpetrating a smoke-and-mirrors "reform" to the agency. The media are quietly reporting that many of them are failed former CIA people who couldn't meet CIA standards and whose careers thereby were cut short.

The notion that the CIA is an independent intelligence-gathering agency separated from the politics of the executive and legislative branches is now nothing more than a fading wish.

President Bush has announced that he wants to increase the number of CIA agency personnel by 50 percent. Yet his own newly appointed leaders of the CIA are simultaneously driving out the very same intelligence experts who are most knowledgeable about effective intelligence gathering.

What's particularly unnerving is that some of the lost experts were not on the Bush team's hit list. They left purely because of the bungling of the team leaders themselves, which apparently has been so bad that it is creating a huge split within the CIA's rank-and-file, according to many major media outlets.

Libertarians are rightfully skeptical of the CIA, FBI, and other intelligence organizations.

As our party's platform rightfully states, "intelligence and law enforcement agencies like the CIA, NSA, and FBI must be prevented from abusing individual rights or else be abolished."

The current politicization of the CIA is a huge red flag waving in our faces, warning us that its role in government is becoming dominated by partisans more interested in promoting their political agenda and consolidating their political control than in any legitimate protection of individual rights.

Big Brother is here.

—WALT THIESSEN  
Warrenton, Virginia

## Thanks!

I am writing to thank Patrick J. Dixon for his insightful discussion of the disregard for our Constitution. The war in Iraq, as Dixon noted, is only one of many, many examples of our complacent dismissal of the fundamental document on which our government rests.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, I withdrew not only from the LP, but from whatever other political ties I had, although I continued to vote. Bu, I am back now and am proud to be back in the company of the likes of Patrick J. Dixon and Ron Paul.

—CHRISTOPHER ROSS  
New York, New York



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# Bennett had Democrat governor candidate Gregoire in her sights

Continued from Page 1

In that election, Democrat Maria Cantwell drew 1,199,437 votes to Gordon's 1,197,208 — only a 2,229-vote difference — while Jared drew 64,734 votes.

Considering both of these elections, Washington Libertarians say, it should be obvious that a Libertarian candidate can tilt a race in either direction — and they hope to force the two larger parties to move

in a Libertarian direction.

## Running to the left

"We decided in this election cycle to deliberately run to the left, to campaign for liberal votes," Bennett said. "We tried picking issues that we thought would appeal primarily to liberal Democrats. As an 'out' lesbian, and with the same-sex marriage issue being such a hot topic, I decided to focus on that issue.

"With such a small gap between the Democrat and Republican, half of a percentage point would have been enough to skew the election. And it appears that our plan worked. The Republicans certainly think it worked."

Though Bennett raised less than \$2,500, she got a lot of bang for her buck by participating in as many public forums and media interviews as she could.

She drew fewer votes than she did in her 2000 race for lieutenant governor, when she got almost 180,000 votes (about 8 percent) in a three-way race, but it was apparently enough to accomplish Stage One of her plan: causing the Democrat to lose the race.

All things considered, Bennett said, no matter which party wins, the Libertarian Party in Washington will hold considerably higher po-

litical capital during the next four years than it has in the past — and that's Stage Two of her plan.

"We'll have better negotiating power, because the two parties should see that we have the ability to hurt them in the next election," she said. "We're ready to do politics the way politics is done, by leveraging our strength.

"We have already come to an understanding that, should the Republican win, that we will have his ear. We have some contacts within the Republican hierarchy, and believe he will be willing to listen to us.

"And if the Democrats win, we'll tell them to think about what the LP could have done with a bigger budget. Either way, we'll be able to say, 'talk to us, or we'll get the other side to talk to us instead.'"

## Long-term effects

If Republican Rossi wins, the Libertarians will talk to him primarily about supporting civil liberties, particularly civil unions for same-sex couples. Currently, Rossi supports a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage.

On Nov. 3, Rossi's communications director, Janelle Guthrie, told the [Longview, Wash.] *Daily News* that she and other Rossi team members are "interested to hear what the Libertarian Party would have to say. Rossi is the kind of guy that if you want to work together in good faith, his door is open."

Although the party drew enough votes to swing the election, Washington's Libertarians lost their "major party" status in this election by not drawing at least 5 percent in any statewide race. They can regain that status — which will allow them to be included in official election publications — by getting at least 5 percent in the only statewide race in 2006.

"We could very well take more than 5 percent in that Senate race in 2006, both affecting the outcome and regaining our major-party status," Bennett said. "We plan to do some serious recruitment and planning beginning in January."

In addition to candidate recruitment, striving to get the ear of the new governor and looking forward to the next elections, the Libertarians in Washington will concentrate on building their relationships with the media, Bennett noted.

"I have gotten more press with this election — unfortunately more since the election than before — than anybody has in this state party has gotten before," she said.

"I think we have some opportunities here. We certainly plan to build on the media contacts that many of us have made. We told the media before the election what the story was going to be — that we were going to cost the Democrat the election — and we've built some credibility since that has apparently happened. We're now in a position of power that we didn't have before."

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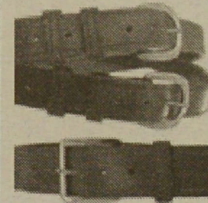
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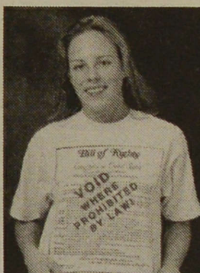
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## UPCOMING

### ■ January 21-23, 2005

**Libertarian State Leadership Alliance Conference,** Renaissance Hotel at the Lambert Airport in St. Louis, Mo. Panel discussion with LP candidates and elected officials: What state organizations can do to support candidates and elected officials. Other speakers to include LNC Treasurer Mark Nelson; Glenn Nielsen, MO LP; LNC representatives George Squyres and James Lark; and LNC Chair Michael Dixon. Indiana LP Chair Mark Rutherford to talk about the Indiana LP's path to success; and Trevor Southerland, of Campus Libertarians, to discuss campus organizing. For more information, contact Bob Sullentrup (LNC secretary and MO LP chair) at [rwsully@charter.net](mailto:rwsully@charter.net) or go to [www.statechairs.org](http://www.statechairs.org).

### ■ February 4-6, 2005

**LP Florida Convention,** St. Petersburg Beach Holiday Inn. Speakers to include Dr. Bruce Borson, Dr. James Lark and Meaghan Walker. For more information, call (727) 344-1038 or go to [www.LPPinellas.org](http://www.LPPinellas.org).

### ■ February 18-20, 2005

**California LP Convention,** Sheraton Gateway Hotel, Los Angeles National Airport. Speakers to include Jim Babka, president of Downsize DC Foundation; Judge Jim Gray, 2004 Libertarian candidate for U.S. Senate; Gary Nolan, 2004 candidate for LP presidential candidate; Kate O'Brien, California elected Libertarian; Richard Burke, executive director of the Oregon LP; and author Chuck Muth. For more information, or to register, go to [www.ca.lp.org](http://www.ca.lp.org); write to P.O. Box 400, McCloud CA 96057; call (877) 884-1776; or e-mail [Convention@CA.LP.org](mailto:Convention@CA.LP.org).

### ■ March 17-19, 2005

**Austrian Scholars Conference 2005,** The Mises Institute, Auburn, Ala. To include 80-plus presentations on economics, history and philosophy, with speakers to include: Thomas J. DiLorenzo of Loyola College; Mark Thornton of The Mises Institute; Alberto Mingardi of the Bruno Leoni Institute; and Edward Feser of Loyola Marymount. For more information, call (334) 321-2100, e-mail [pat@mises.org](mailto:pat@mises.org), or go to [www.Mises.org](http://www.Mises.org).

### ■ April 9, 2005

**Minnesota LP Convention,** in downtown St. Paul, Minn. Featured speakers to include keynote speaker Michael Badnarik, 2004 LP presidential candidate; author James Bovard; Lee McGrath, executive director of the Minnesota Chapter of the Institute for Justice; Mark Selzer, host of the "Libertarian Alternative" TV show; Michael Wilson, director of the film "Michael Moore Hates America." Badnarik will also host his class on the Constitution, on April 10. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [www.lpmn.org](http://www.lpmn.org) or email [convention@lpmn.org](mailto:convention@lpmn.org).

### ■ July 10-15, 2005

**ISIL's 24th Annual World Conference,** in St. Petersburg, Russia. Celebrating "The Year of Ayn Rand," (it marks the 100th anniversary of her birth) the International Society for Individual Liberty will hold its annual conference in Rand's home city — concentrating on the enormous influence the author had on the world of individualist and free market philosophy. For details, go to [www.FreeMarket.net](http://www.FreeMarket.net), e-mail [isil@isil.org](mailto:isil@isil.org), or call (707) 746-8796.

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■ **PAGE 15** End Social Security



## FIRST WORD

"Today's Democrat and Republican parties offer slightly different versions of the same stale, failed ideas. Both promote bigger government and more assaults on civil liberties at home and entangling alliances and wars abroad. To a libertarian, there isn't nearly enough difference between them to justify pretensions of intellectual superiority by either side."

—THOMAS GILLOOLY, Pittsburgh [Pa.] Tribune-Review, December 16, 2004

"It seems the American Left is no longer content with their usurpation of the word 'liberal,' which previously referred to a person who believed in free markets and social tolerance, and is now attempting to steal the word 'libertarian,' which classical liberals now use to describe themselves. Summed up most simply, libertarianism is the belief each person should be free to live their life as they see fit, as long as they respect the equal rights of others to do the same. While some find this a vague description, it is important to read this statement in terms of negative rights. It does not imply anybody is entitled to anything, but rather a person has the right 'to be let alone,' as many have termed it in the past. It also means every person is naturally unencumbered; the only obligations you have are those you have consented to accept."

—DANIEL KRAWIEC, The Michigan Review [The campus affairs journal of the University of Michigan], November 9, 2004